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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you intend to sign the petition to place the question of Saipan casino legalization on the Nov. 6 ballot?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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The latest Friends of the Arts production, *Sleuth*, was verbal jousting at its best. ➤ PAGE 7

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France hands the presidency to leftist Francois Hollande. ➤ PAGE 16

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Public hearings on cutting Saipan House members to 9. PAGE 5

CNMI LOSES OUT ON QUARRY REVENUE

DPL closes Kannat Tabla quarry

» 2-year deal to extract 75K cubic yards of coral despite lack of DPL permit for 7 years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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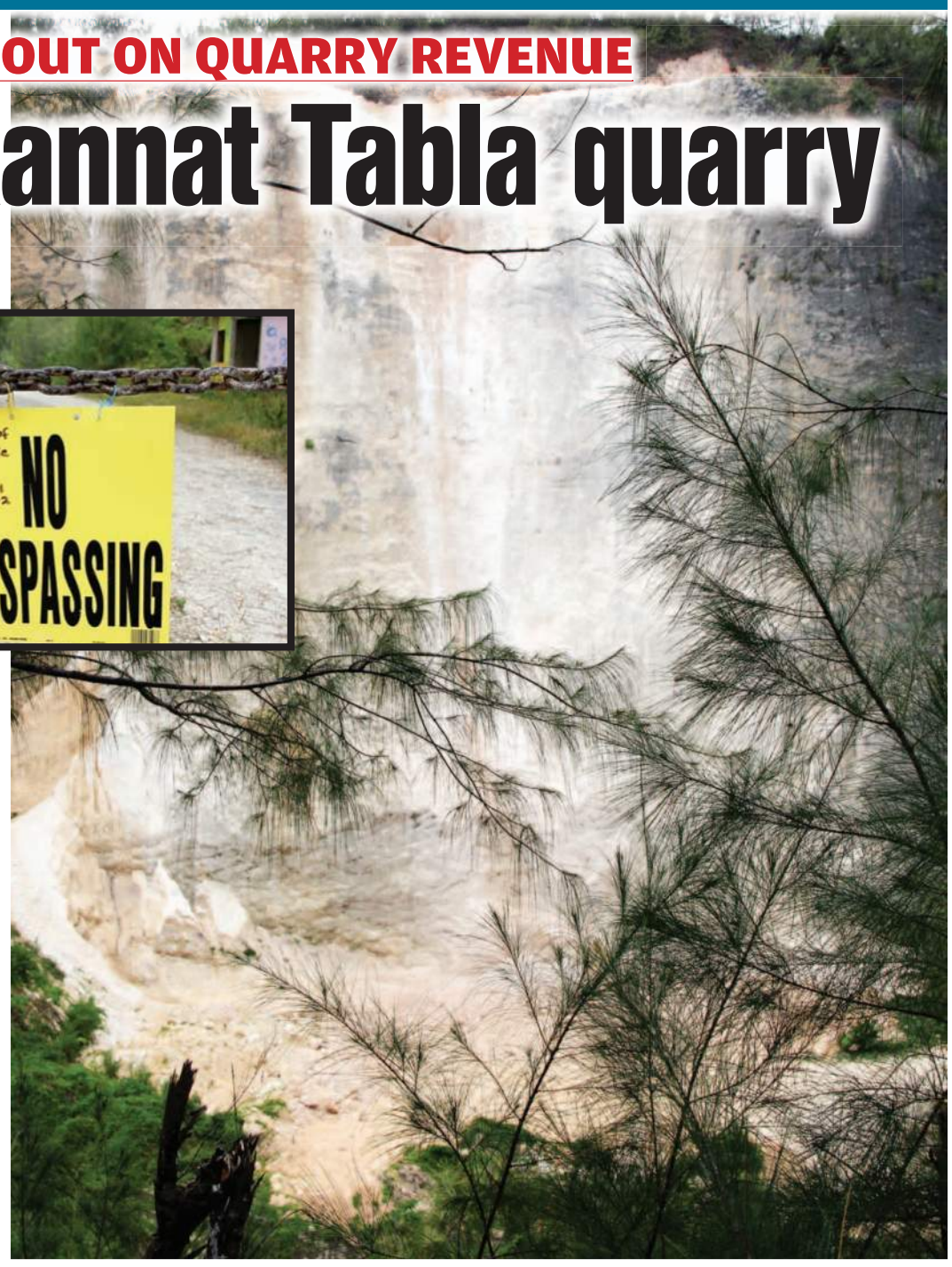
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands closed off its Kannat Tabla quarry to prevent the Saipan Mayor's Office and Hawaiian Rock Products from further extracting coral from the site after preliminary findings showed that the mayor's office has no permit from DPL—and its predecessor Marianas Public Lands Authority—to use the quarry since at least 2005.

See DPL on Page 4

The Department of Public Lands closed off and placed this "No Tresspassing" sign at its Kannat Tabla quarry to prevent the Saipan Mayor's Office and Hawaiian Rock Products from further extracting corals from the area, after preliminary findings show that both do not have any authorization from DPL and its predecessor Marianas Public Lands Authority to use the quarry since at least 2005.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CHC gets 45-day window to iron out ICS contract

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Without a "lawful" contract, all activities between International Consulting Services and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will have to end 45 days from the date of the notice to cease and desist, according to Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham.

Buckingham issued the notice on April 17 to corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, more than a month after

See CHC on Page 4

Tinian training aims to work on aviation combat readiness

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Details of Tinian, Guam simultaneous exercises released

The training of around 200 U.S. Marines on Tinian as part of Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 is intended to allow Marine Aircraft Group-12 out of Japan "to improve aviation combat readiness and simulate operations in a deployed austere environment," decades after Tinian played a decisive role to end World War II.

Half or some 100 of these Marines are expected to arrive on Tinian tomorrow, but the specific time is yet unknown.

The Marine Forces Pacific Guam and CNMI released late yesterday afternoon details of the May 14 to June 8 simultaneous exercises that elements of the Marine Aircraft Group-12 or MAG-12 will be participating in.

Geiger Fury 2012 will be conducted on both West and North Fields on Tinian in the CNMI, while Aviation Training Relocation will be conducted at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

Approximately 700 personnel will participate in the ATR training in Guam

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15 kids join district court community outreach

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Fifteen children of district court and federal agency employees visited the U.S. District Court yesterday for its first community outreach in celebration of Law Day.

The children, from eight different public and private schools on Saipan, participated in the NMI District Court's first ever "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work" Day. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the program.

The children met with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, and other people who work in these government agencies.

The district court highlighted yesterday's Law Day event with a naturalization ceremony, during which Manglona welcomed the five newest U.S. citizens to the American family. The students witnessed the special event.

Later that day, the district court hosted a Junior High School Mock Trial competition featuring a prosecution team and defense team from Hopwood Junior High School.

Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood of the District Court of Guam presided over the mock trial via videoconference in Guam. Students of Agueda Johnston Middle School joined Tydingco-Gatewood in Guam, serving as jurors.

Celebrating Law Day and "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" jointly this year highlights the people behind the federal agencies whose work keep the federal court open, Manglona said.

This year, the American Bar Association's Law Day theme, "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom," underscores the importance of the courts and their role in ensuring access to justice for all Americans, she added.

"Open and accessible courts are the cornerstone of a free society. The framers of our Constitution recognized the importance of the courts when they made the judiciary one of the three coequal branches of our government," Manglona said.

Michelle Macaranas, the district court's financial administrator, said the students enjoyed the daylong "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day." She said the children talked with Manglona and spoke with other people from different federal agencies.

"The kids were asking a lot of questions with DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] officers," she said.

Macaranas brought her 13-year-old son Devin and 8-year-old son Tyler.

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

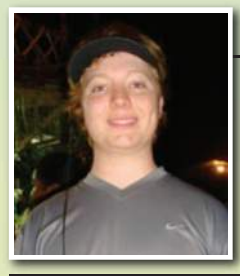
May is Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands, and this month, the Marianas Visitors Authority turns the spotlight on you for your thoughts on tourism related opinions.

What do you enjoy most about the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival?

"The food, the entertainment that they have, and walking around looking at the booths."
Candelaria Itibus Moses and family

"The entertainment, the food, and how people can be together with no problems."
Derrence Andres

"Good time! Everybody is kind. (The) sea is very beautiful."
Mizuki and Erika



"Tony Roma's! The ribs are delicious, and they have the best on the island."
Cody Race

"I guess it's the ability to meet so many neighbors. They may get together only once a year, but they'll come to this and catch up. And we get to host it at the national park."
Nancy Kelchner

The Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m.

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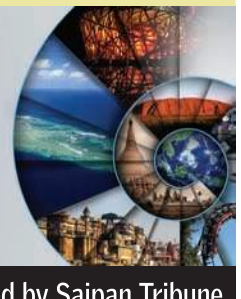

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

2 retirees join move to dismiss Fund's bankruptcy case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two retirees and members of the NMI Retirement Fund are joining the move to have the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition dismissed.

Joaquin Q. Atalig and Jesus I. Taisague, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, submitted yesterday to the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division a notice of joinder to a motion to dismiss that was filed earlier by two unnamed retirees.

Quichocho said his clients are joining Jane Roe and John Doe—the unnamed retirees represented by attorney Bruce Jorgensen's group—in seeking the dismissal of the Fund's Chapter 11 petition because the Fund does not meet the Chapter's requirements.

Unquestionably, Quichocho said, the Fund is not a "person that may be a debtor under Chapter 7," and therefore the Fund cannot be a debtor under Chapter 11.

The Fund, he pointed out, is a "governmental unit" that is ineligible to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Quichocho said the Fund was fully aware that it is a "governmental unit" and not a "person" under the Bankruptcy Code.

Quichocho added that the filing of the bankruptcy was not lawful nor was it properly authorized because the Fund board has no power to declare bankruptcy on behalf of the Fund.

The lawyer said the decision to file for bankruptcy, despite the lack of power to do so, was in violation of the CNMI's Open Government Act, which are additional grounds that requires dismissal of the case.

The U.S. Trustee had also asked the court over the weekend to dismiss the bankruptcy petition.

Assistant U.S. Trustee Curtis Ching echoed the position of Jorgensen's unnamed clients that the Fund's structure and statutory existence makes it clear that it is a "governmental unit" of the CNMI.

Ching argued that under Title 11, a debtor must be a "person" in order to be eligible to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and may not, under the statutory definition, be a "governmental unit."

APPRECIATING TEACHERS
The Public School System's Commissioner of Education, Dr. Rita A. Sablan, poses with Hopwood Junior High School staff after greeting them a happy "Teacher Appreciation Week."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Your Laolao Story' contest launched

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Our Laolao campaign has launched a contest that ties in with its efforts to generate stories from community members about the treasure that is Laolao Bay.

Your Laolao Story contest urges students to apply their research skills to identify and interview individuals or families that offer insight into Laolao Bay's past.

"Students are encouraged to look closely at their own circles of friends and family, and to contact relatives and neighbors to gather insight and information about the bay," said Eloise Lee, program associate for Seaweb, an international non-profit organization involved in the Our Laolao campaign.

Launched in March, the campaign strives to capture why people value Laolao Bay, and in turn inspire community users to help keep Laolao Bay litter-free for all.

The campaign is a collaborative effort between the Division of Environmental Quality, the Coastal Resources Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Seaweb, and the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

Lee said the contest, which is open to all elementary, junior, and high school students, is an opportunity for young people to learn more about the rich cultural history of Laolao Bay through oral history as the CNMI observes Historic Preservation Week.

Herman Tudela of the Historic Preservation Office noted that sometimes, the best historians are "the people we see everyday, like our parents and neighbors."

"A contest like this helps bring together young people with folks in our community who offer wisdom and insight into the history of Laolao Bay," added Tudela.

Submission forms for contest entries are available online at www.ourlaolao.com or may be requested via email at info@ourlaolao.com.

Deadline for entries is June 8, after which the entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges based on originality, storyline, and use of historical facts and data.

Lee said winning entries will be divided into best overall essay, best research and documentation, and most creative essay.

"Winning submissions will receive prizes, and will be published and featured on the Our Laolao website," she added.

For more information, call 808-989-4584 or email elee@seaweb.org.

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TINIAN

From Page 1

and around 200 personnel will participate in Geiger Fury on Tinian.

Service members from MAG- 12 will also participate in various events in the local community during their stay on Tinian and Guam.

"Geiger Fury 2012 is a continuation of unit-level training exercises intended to allow MAG-12 to improve aviation combat readiness and simulate operations in a deployed austere environment," the Marine Corps said.

Training on Tinian's North Field includes clearing, stripping, and repairing the landing surface on Able and Baker runways and the installation of matting for vertical take-off and landing of rotary and fixed-wing operations.

Training on Tinian's West Field includes emplacement of arresting ≠gear and fuel storage/distribution for purposes of extending aviation training throughout the Mariana Island Range Complex.

'Long overdue'

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) said yesterday that the use of Tinian for military training is "long overdue."

"It's something that should have been done a long time ago. Let's hope that Tinian and the whole CNMI will benefit from this activity," Conner told *Saipan Tribune.*

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased by the U.S. Department of Defense from the CNMI government.

Geiger Fury could be the largest military exercise to take place in the CNMI and perhaps the start of a permanent presence on Tinian, the launching pad for the U.S. atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan that hastened the end of the war.

Don Farrell, a CNMI historian and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz's point man on military matters, said yesterday that the advance team for Marine Aircraft Group 12 was to arrive yesterday.

"The high-speed vessel from Iwakuni with all the equipment for the Air Group Support team will arrive Wednesday with the heavy equipment and about 100 Marines. After the vessel is cleared and the equipment arranged at the dock, some will be moved to West Field International Airport and the rest to North Field Runway Bravo where they will bivouac," Farrell said.

He said the vessel will return to Japan, pick up the rest of the Marines, and arrive on Tinian next week.

"The 'surge' of activity will commence on Monday, May 21, with F-18 Hornet night landings at West Field and C-130 operations on North Field," he said.

Farrell said it is not anticipated that there will be any closure of North Field.

"Tour buses will continue their daily trips to Runway Able and the Atomic Bomb Loading Area," he added.

Tom Linden, Military Integration Management Committee coordinator, said the Fitial administration is aware of the U.S. Marines training but is not taking an active role in it.

Guam training

As part of the Aviation Training Relocation operations, F/A-18s from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni will conduct air-to-air and air-to-ground training from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam to help ensure combat readiness.

The ATR event will also extend to Tinian's West Field, which will be used as a forward area refueling point in order to extend aviation training operations with the Mariana Island Range Complex.

There will be a total of 36 F/A-18 Hornets assigned to three U.S. Marine Corps squadrons operating out of Andersen Air Force Base.

CHC

From Page 1

Babauta signed a sole-source, six-year contract with the Idaho-based ICS to provide billing and collection services for the Commonwealth Health Center.

In a phone interview last night, Buckingham said the 45-day window is "reasonable and fair" given the "unique" circumstance of having the OAG be presented "with an activity that is not lawful."

However, he was also informed by Babauta that acting precipitously on the matter would do harm to the financial structure of CHC.

"What I attempted to do is provide a reasonable period of time to address this while at the same time, ending an activity that is not lawful," Buckingham told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked if the corporation and ICS are aware of the 45-day period, Buckingham said that the notice to cease and desist was stamped "received" by Babauta's office.

In an effort "to try to work together," Buckingham said he met with Babauta and ICS president Dan Cochran last Wednesday. He said the meeting "sounded pretty positive."

The meeting was conducted to discuss and request documents about, among other things, ICS start-up and maximum costs, list of deliverables, strategic plan, and specific work flow to be submitted to the OAG.

"However, part of what concerns me is what happened after that meeting," said Buckingham. "We have not seen what ICS needed to provide."

In a statement, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said, "I listened to the audiotape of Wednesday's meeting and was pleased that all the parties were being respectful and constructive. There was a clear set of to-do items from the meeting. I don't know why nothing was done."

Buckingham again met with Babauta yesterday, this time with corporation board chair Joaquin Torres and Fitial at the Governor's Office as part of ongoing efforts "to move the relationship with ICS to one [that is] based on a lawful contract."

In a separate interview yesterday, Babauta confirmed his attendance at the meeting and said that they are "still working out what information needs to be submitted by ICS."

"Once that's completed, we'll go from there," he added.

Babauta noted that the corporation has been working with Fitial since the beginning to work out the legal issues involving the ICS deal. If the contract remains unapproved, Babauta said the corporation will have a time setback "and time is not in our side.

"We want to be able to generate revenue for the hospital. Any setback will be a setback in time. It will delay any further ability for the agency to generate revenue," he said.

Speaking about the doctors who wrote an open letter threatening to resign if the ICS contract is disapproved, Babauta said the doctors only want to see the ICS contract executed given the "urgency" of the situation at the hospital.

"I don't blame them for being concerned…They want to be able to feel we are on our way to being able to generate enough money so we can continue to operate the hospital so that they can have peace of mind in terms of their future here financially. I'm with them on that," he added.

Board chair Torres disclosed that ICS, through Cochran, has been informed by corporation chief operating officer James Phillips about yesterday's meeting.

"Jim [Phillips] reported to us that he did talk to Dan Cochran and that they will be submitting the documents to Saipan," he said.

Although Buckingham's concerns are "legitimate" and "reasonable," Torres believes that Cochran had the information readily available during his visit to Saipan.

"I'm hopeful that the ICS can comply with the requirements and we'll go on from there. I'm very optimistic that we can still proceed with the contract," added Torres.

DPL

From Page 1

Moreover, despite its lack of permit, the Mayor's Office entered into a two-year agreement with Hawaiian Rock in 2010 for the latter to extract 75,000 cubic yards of coral for free on the condition that 9,000 cubic yards of those will be delivered to the Mayor's Office for its community projects.

Coral from the Kannat Tabla quarry have been used by the Saipan Mayor's Office to cover potholes, improve rough roads, or expand parking spaces in areas where there are funerals.

A visit to the site yesterday shows a yellow "no trespassing" sign hanging from a metal chain at the entrance to the Kannat Tabla quarry, "by order of Department of Public Lands."

Ray Cruz, DPL director of compliance, confirmed that DPL closed off the quarry in Kannat Tabla on April 25.

"It took us a little longer to catch it," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune.*

Without proof that the Mayor's Office secured an MPLA/DPL extended permit back in 2005, it would appear that for at least seven years it has been using the Kannat Tabla quarry without proper authorization.

With the government having difficulty paying its employees the full 80 hours every two weeks, and its pension agency and health center in extreme financial hardship, the government may have been losing out on revenue from quarry operations.

Cruz said DPL wants to know where and how the Mayor's Office used 9,000 cubic yards of coral under its 2010 memorandum of agreement with Hawaiian Rock, and whether it has really secured from the former MPLA a temporary permit for the quarry site since it asked for an extension in 2005.

'Not aware, don't remember'

Henry Hofschneider, special adviser to Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, said yesterday that the Mayor's Office has not been made aware that it lacks an MPLA and later on a DPL permit to use the Kannat Tabla quarry.

He also said at this point, the Mayor's Office is asking DPL to reconsider its decision to close off the quarry from further use by the office.

Hofschneider added that the mayor provided a copy of his MOA with Hawaiian Rock.

"So if there was a problem with the Mayor's Office related to the quarry operations, DPL should have let us know. But they didn't say anything until now," he said.

DPL's Cruz said the Mayor's Office should have checked whether it has a valid permit with MPLA or DPL. DPL's compliance unit has only two inspectors.

It was during the time of former Saipan mayor Juan B. Tudela that the Mayor's Office wrote an Oct. 31, 2005, letter to then MPLA commissioner Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, asking for an "extension" of "MPLA temporary permit no. 0325S for the quarry site located in Kannat Tabla."

A few days later, on Nov. 7, 2005, Deleon Guerrero acknowledged receipt of Tudela's Oct. 31, 2005, letter and said the extension request is "undergoing staff review."

Those two letters are all that's on file. MPLA was later abolished and changed to DPL.

DPL's Cruz said yesterday that DPL couldn't find any document showing that MPLA granted the extension request.

Deleon Guerrero, now executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, said yesterday he doesn't remember whether MPLA granted the extension request of former mayor Tudela.

Former DPL secretary Oscar M. Babauta, when asked for comment yesterday, said he is not aware either whether MPLA or DPL granted a permit to the Mayor's Office to use the quarry site. Babauta became DPL secretary only in April 2010.

Acting DPL secretary Pete Itibus was off island yesterday, but he gave instruction to his office to allow the media to talk to DPL compliance director Ray Cruz on the matter.

Ponciano Corotan, Saipan manager of Hawaiian Rock Products, separately said yesterday that he personally did not know whether the Saipan Mayor's Office had an MPLA or DPL permit when it signed a memorandum of agreement with Hawaiian Rock Products in March 2010.

Sweetheart deal?

On March 17, 2010, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and Hawaiian Rock Products vice president Peter Errett Jr. signed a two-page memorandum of agreement which "provides for cooperation" between the two parties "for the mining of coral" in Kannat Tabla, specifically Lot 040 H 02.

The MOA was for two years, or until March 2012.

It cites that the mayor's office has a major siting permit from the Coastal Resources Management, Permit # SMS-95-X-186 (Amended).

Under the MOA, the mayor's office agrees to have Hawaiian Rock operate the Kannat Tabla quarry for the purpose of extracting coral.

"Hawaiian Rock will excavate and process coral for use on various construction sites on Saipan. In exchange for obtaining coral from the Kannat Tabla quarry, Hawaiian Rock Products will provide materials and services to the Mayor of Saipan at no cost…," the MOA partly reads.

Hawaiian Rock is to extract 75,000 cubic yards of coral, valued at $168,750, from the site.

Of the 75,000 cubic yards to be extracted by Hawaiian Rock, 9,000 cubic yards valued at $67,500 were supposed to be provided by Hawaiian Rock to the Mayor's Office.

Hofschneider said the Mayor's Office doesn't have the proper equipment and other resources to extract coral for its community projects so it entered into an MOA with Hawaiian Rock.

'Overstated, understated'

Hawaiian Rock's Corotan said they stopped extracting coral from the Kannat Tabla quarry in December 2011, three months ahead of the expiration of the MOA with the Mayor's Office.

DPL's Cruz said when they went to the quarry on April 25, they saw Mayor's Office equipment at the site.

Hofschneider said the Mayor's Office asked for a report from Hawaiian Rock as to the volume of corals it extracted and the volume it gave to the Mayor's Office since the effective date of the MOA.

Corotan said Hawaiian Rock extracted a total of only 50,700 cubic yards, short of the 75,000 cubic yards it was supposed to remove under the MOA.

Instead of providing the Mayor's Office with just 9,000 cubic yards, he said they ended up giving it at least 19,775 cubic yards.

"And that's not even the real total because at first, we were not recording everything we were giving them, so the real figure is more than 19,775 cubic yards," Corotan said.

Hofschneider said that based on their evaluation, the Mayor's Office doesn't believe it got 19,000-plus cubic yards from Hawaiian Rock.

"The Saipan Mayor's Office is not convinced with the report of Hawaiian Rock that they gave us 19,000 cubic yards. That's overstated," he said.

Hofschneider also said, "Oftentimes, Hawaiian Rock would say it's very busy so it cannot deliver corals but said they will later on."

"But we ended up not getting any corals from them when we request it," Hofschneider said.

Corotan, for his part, said the Mayor's Office would request for corals any time it wanted, without regard to Hawaiian Rock's own schedule. At the time, he said the company was busy with its projects, including portions of the Cross Islands Road project.

Both parties separately said they would provide copies of the actual report made by Hawaiian Rock about its extraction from the Kannat Tabla area.

Hofschneider said Hawaiian Rock managed to get free coral in exchange for providing the Mayor's Office a portion of what Hawaiian Rock was able to extract from the site without paying a fee.

But Corotan said the Mayor's Office also benefited from the agreement, much more than what was actually agreed upon.

"We used our equipment, our manpower, fuel, and other resources to comply with the MOA," he added.

DPL's Cruz said it would be up to acting DPL secretary Pete Itibus to decide what steps will be taken with regard to the matter, including whether to reprimand the Mayor's Office and ask Hawaiian Rock for compensation for coral extraction.

NMC aims to complete self-study report by summer

» NCHEMS official to help college with 5-year strategic plan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The president of the Northern Marianas College said that the institution is still working on its self-study report, one of the requirements of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, which is expected to be finished this summer.

Typically held every six years between an institution's full accreditation terms, the self-study report is aimed at promoting institution-wide reflection about educational quality and student learning and in identifying an action plan to address areas of growth until the next self-study.

Dr. Sharon Y. Hart said Friday after the opening ceremony for the NMC Charter Day celebration that the accreditation status is one "major focus" at the institution.

NMC, the only community college in the CNMI, remains on probation with the ACCJC until such time it resolves three of the original 11 concerns identified last year, plus two new deficiencies.

Although the college has until Oct. 15 to submit the report, Hart said they are targeting to complete it "over the summer months." That would be June, July, or August.

"We're looking forward to the [accreditation] team visit in the fall, speaking in front of the commission in January, and getting the results in February," Hart told *Saipan Tribune*.

Besides the accreditation, Hart said that another major focus is NMC's five-year strategic planning process.

The president disclosed that they are expecting to host a "key leader" from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems or NCHEMS in July.

NCHEMS is a private nonprofit organization with the mission to improve strategic decision making in higher education for states and institutions in the United States and abroad.

"Their goal is to help state by state to focus on higher education, getting the state government and the business community to work together," said Hart, adding that the official was recently in Greece to help the nation look at their whole higher education system.

According to Hart, the visiting NCHEMS official will help NMC with its five-year strategic plan.

"We're hoping that the top officials on this island, the top business leaders working with the college, are all going to sit down, not only determining and setting that direction for where the college is going to need to be in the next five years but our direction has to be based on where the entire CNMI is going," she added.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Amber Mendiola, center, of the Northern Marianas College reads the proclamation designating May as NMC Month as Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, and NMC president Sharon Hart look on during Friday's celebration of NMC Charter Day at the As Terlaje campus.

Two public hearings on cutting Saipan House members to nine

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Over a year after its introduction, an initiative that will reduce from 18 to nine the number of House of Representatives members from Saipan will finally have a public hearing on Wednesday and Thursday.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, said the May 9, Wednesday, public hearing will be held at the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria and the one on May 10, Thursday, will be at the Dandan Elementary School cafeteria.

Both public hearings will start at 6pm.

Members of the public are encouraged to voice out their concerns about the proposal to reduce by half the number of House members from Saipan, and to submit written comments prior to the public hearing. Demapan's office number is 664-8948, and the email address is staff.rep.demapanr@cnmileg.gov.mp.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), author of House Legislative Initiative 17-4, wishes that the public hearings were held last year so that the House and Senate could act on it, and then give the public ample time to be educated on the proposal to reduce the number of lawmakers from Saipan because of the shrinking population and economy.

"But because that didn't happen as early as I had hoped for, I just wish that people who support a legislature that is smaller and more efficient in using government resources will show up and voice their support to the initiative," Palacios said yesterday.

He said this is one initiative that tells the public that the Legislature is willing to be part of the solution to reduce government spending and increase efficiency.

Palacios said reducing the size of the House would result in savings in excess of $1 million annually.

There are currently 20 House members. Of this number, Rota and Tinian each have one; the rest, 18, are from Saipan. The Senate has nine members comprising three each from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The JGO Committee's public hearings will be held days after the Legislature's 120-day period to promulgate a re-apportionment or redistricting plan lapsed on May 4.

Palacios said a constitutional change to reduce the number of lawmakers would now be the best way to go.

His HLI 17-4 seeks to amend Article II, Section 4 subsections (a), (b) and (c) of the CNMI Constitution.

The over $1 million in annual savings will be realized "by cutting the present budget by each representative's salary of $39,500 together with their respective annual budget of $84,146. This savings of $1,112,814 would be significant in light of the current economic circumstances," the initiative states.

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Five take oath as new US citizens during Law Day event

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

For Emilia Lopez Taitano, acquiring her U.S. citizenship after being on Saipan for 23 years means she will not be separated from her family in light of new federal immigration rules.

Taitano, 45, a sales supervisor at Duty Free Shoppers, is a native of Pangasinan, the Philippines. She has been married for 21 years to Dominic Taitano, an employee of the Public School System. They have five children.

"I am very happy. I can now avail of all the benefits of a U.S. citizen," the beaming Taitano told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday shortly after she and four others took their oath to become U.S. citizens.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. District Court for the NMI conducted the special naturalization ceremony in honor of Law Day.

According to USCIS, Law Day, a national day to recognize the country's commitment to the rule of law, is a memorable day for new citizens to join the United States of America.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona administered the oath to Taitano and four other petitioners—Leonora Ramos Palacios, Adeline Lejjena Mizutani, Maribel Singson Engelskjen, and Regina Galang Kautz.

Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde presented the names of the five petitioners, all Filipinos except for Mizutani, who is a native of Likiep Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

For the 58-year-old Palacios, she is just happy that she finally got her wish after applying for citizenship in November. Palacios, who is from La Union, the Philippines, first came to Saipan in 1990 to work as a sewer at a garment factory. She has been married for 14 years to Jesus Palacios, an employee of Saipan Stevedore. The Palacios couple has one child.

Mizutani, 55, said she is very proud to finally be able to acquire her U.S. citizenship. A native of Likiep Atoll, she has been working on Saipan for 32 years now. Married to Linus Mizutani for 33 years, Mrs. Mizutani is a sales associate at DFS.

At the ceremony, Judge Manglona welcomed the newest U.S. citizens of "our great country" and to the third branch of the national government, the federal judiciary.

"The five of you have just joined the citizenry of the greatest country on this earth, the United States of America. By your own free will, you have chosen to leave your birth countries to become a part of the American family," Manglona said.

She said it is an important day for each of the newest citizens. "Becoming a citizen of the United States is a significant day in your lives, as well as the lives of the people around you—because of the many rights and privileges that you now hold—from the youngest at the age of 33 years old, to the oldest at 58 years old. Together, you will begin a new life as American citizens," the judge said.

Manglona also urged the newest U.S. citizens to join the Law Day celebration.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The five newest U.S. citizens pose for a photo with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, left, and Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde, right, during yesterday's special naturalization ceremony at the district court.

Retirees, active employees seen to boost signature drive for casino

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan casino proponent Dr. Jack Angello said yesterday that some 1,000 signatures have already been gathered to help place the question of Saipan casino gaming legalization on the Nov. 6 ballot, but they are only halfway to meet the target of 2,500 to 2,700 signatures.

Angello said the group is now looking to retirees and active members of the NMI Retirement Fund to help boost the number of signatures.

He said they will be setting up a table at the meeting place of retirees and active members tonight.

"Hopefully there will be no objections from the coordinators of the meetings," Angello said.

The Commonwealth Retirees Association will hold a meeting tonight, 6pm, at the multi-purpose center in Susupe.

Active members of the NMI Retirement Fund will also have a meeting at 6:30pm tonight at the Memorial Park Amphitheater.

By signing the petition, voters will help place the Saipan casino question on the ballot.

Movers of the signature campaign said that, by allowing casinos to operate on Saipan, 80-hour work every two weeks could be restored.

Angello said that local revenues, license fees, and gross gaming revenue tax will be used to help fund the Retirement Fund, the medical referral program, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, and other programs and services on Saipan.

The 22-page local initiative requires a $5 million initial license fee to be paid within 90 days after the license approval and $200,000 in annual license fee every year thereafter.

Three casino licenses are available: two for an existing hotel with at least 250 guest rooms, golf club resort or resort, and one for a new investment of at least $100 million inclusive of a hotel resort or convention center. One other casino license is also available to a Northern Marianas descent corporation.

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Tickets are sold at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai next to DEQ. For inquiries, call 233-REEF.

Man allegedly strangled wife with electrical cord

Police arrested Saturday night in As Matuis a man who allegedly strangled his wife with an electric cord after accusing her of having an affair.

Daniel Sablan Jr., 29, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and contempt of court.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo reduced yesterday to $25,000 cash the $50,000 cash bail that associate judge David A. Wiseman earlier imposed when he issued the arrest warrant.

Preliminary hearing is on May 17 at 9am.

Police detective Catherine Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer responded to a residence in As Matuis on Saturday at 12:54am after receiving a call about a disturbance.

Pangelinan said that when the officer arrived, the victim's mother told the officer to check her daughter inside her bedroom because she needs help.

When the officer went inside the bedroom, he saw the victim crying and holding her throat with her left hand. The officer noticed that the victim was having hard time breathing and she had red line marks with scratches and cuts around her neck. The victim also had blood spots on her lower arm and her upper lip was swelling.

Medics came and gave the victim oxygen.

During an interview with the officer, the victim disclosed that she has a temporary restraining order against Sablan.

As related to the officer, Sablan accused her of having an affair, pointed a knife at her, and threatened to kill her with it. Sablan also allegedly took an electrical cord and wrapped it around her neck, then strangled her with it. The victim shouted but Sablan covered her mouth. She bit two of Sablan's fingers, causing him to release her. The victim managed to shout for help. Seconds later, the mother opened the door and stopped Sablan. When the mother noticed her daughter trying to catch her breath, she called 911 for police assistance.

Sablan drove off with the victim's vehicle. Police arrested him on Saturday at 6:59pm in As Matuis. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Clever banter makes 'Sleuth' stand out

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The latest Friends of the Arts production, *Sleuth*, was verbal jousting at its best, an exchange of clever and witty repartee that was an apt conclusion to FOA's 2011-2012 season.

Staged at the Marianas High School Dolphin Theatre last May 4 to 6, it featured a commanding performance by Leo Goode in the role of Andrew Wyke, "a master at games" with a passion for detective fiction writing, and ably supported by Bernard Rivera in the role of Milo Tindle, a Jewish-Italian enterprising businessman in the travel industry.

Written by British playwright Anthony J. Shaffer, *Sleuth* is a drama that takes place in a Norman manor house in England during the '60s. It premiered in 1970 and won a Tony Award for best play of that same year.

The play starts out with Wyke, a mystery writer who invites his wife Marguerite's lover, Tindle, to his lavish manor in the absence of the wife. Wyke then persuades Tindle to stage a robbery involving Marguerite's jewelry, which sets off a chain of events involving the two.

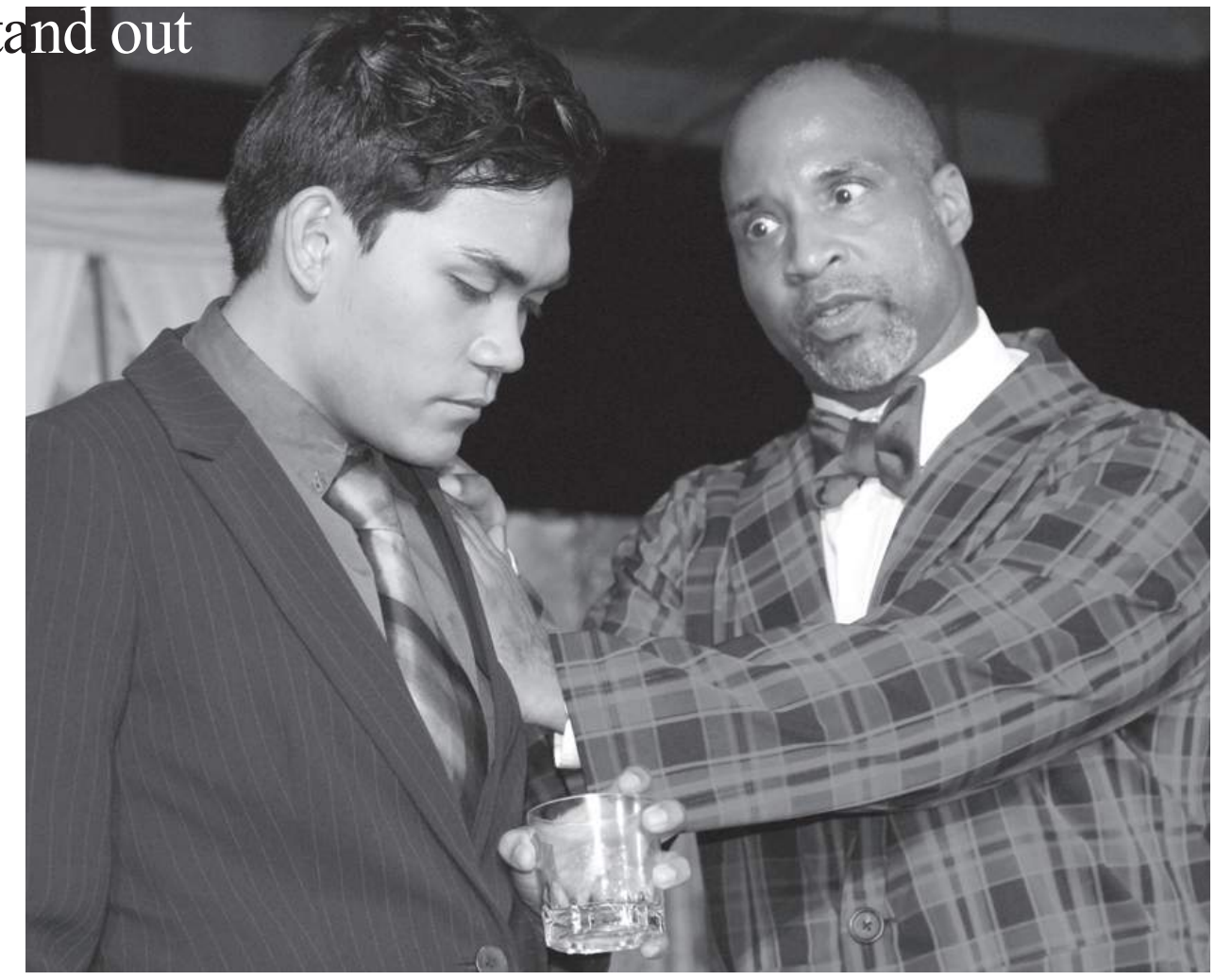
Goode is no stranger to theater, having performed in various roles for FOA's productions. Born and raised in Chicago, Goode is an original member of The CCC Contemporary Chorus and spent two years with the Music Theater of Chicago.

Director Harold Easton said he "immediately" volunteered to direct the play, having seen the show in London years ago "and liked this strange piece of theatre."

"Since my stage manager is a current student and my producer a former student, the production staff and cast are practically a living history of my time here in Saipan," he added.

Sleuth's production staff was composed of Easton, line producer Ruth P. de Lemos-Loyola, stage manager Ericka Serrano, marketing staffer Annie Kim, and advertising staffer Frank Gibson.

The technical staff was composed of technical director Kristine Valencia, costume coordinator Clariza Magat, lights and sound Gemmilie Anne Eugenio, stage/tech crew members Jia Argus, Angel Cho, Bruce Li, Michelle Li, Limeng Liu, Kimberly Parks, and Cody Race.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Leo Goode, right, in the role of Andrew Wyke, and Bernard Rivera in the role of Milo Tindle, perform in the latest Friends of the Arts production, Sleuth, at the Marianas High School Dolphin Theatre over the weekend.

CPA meets bond ratio requirement

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Commonwealth Ports Authority board members convene for a regular meeting at the CPA conference room last Friday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has reported that it has met the bond ratio or service coverage ratio for the second quarter of fiscal year 2012.

CPA comptroller Derek Sasamoto informed the board during its meeting on Friday that from January to March 2012, the agency's bond ratio stands at 1.35 for airports and 1.32 for seaports.

The airport bond ratio, Sasamoto noted, does not yet include the revenue for the Passenger Facility Charge or PFC. Taking in PFC, the airport bond ratio is "over" 2.00.

He said airports and seaports "are doing and operating well" and are in compliance of the required bond ratio.

In an interview, Sasamoto disclosed that they are required to meet the 125-percent bond ratio coverage for both airport and seaports, which they are currently exceeding.

"That was set by the indenture of trust established by the bond," explained Sasamoto, referring to the bond ratio requirement. "When we floated our bonds, we were required by bond trustees, for example, to whatever expenses we incur, add in the bond payments for the year, and we have to generate 125 times that revenue at a minimum. And we are exceeding that right now—that's as of end of March 2012."

CPA executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero noted that CPA has been meeting the bond ratio requirement for three years now since the "new regime" came in and handled the matter.

"We've been meeting all bond ratio since 2009 up to now. It means that CPA is being run the way it should be run. We are spending based on the income that we have," Deleon Guerrero added.

Military rethinking location of Guam Marine base

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The federal government is rethinking where to put a Marine base on Guam now that fewer Marines will be moving to the U.S. territory from Okinawa, Japan.

With fewer troops and families to house, a local Marine base could be smaller than previously thought, Joe Ludovici, the executive director of the military's Joint Guam Program Office, said Wednesday.

The base might fit in locations that were ruled out in previous studies, he said.

"So what we are going to try to do this summer, before we start the actual EIS process, is identify what the potential alternatives are," he said, according to the *Pacific Daily News*.

The military will seek public input on the issue, he said. New draft and final environmental impact statements will be released in 2014. A decision on where to put the base and firing range would come the following year.

The changes could also lead to a new proposed location for a firing range.

Under the new plan, 5,000 Marines and 1,300 dependents will move to Guam. The old plan included 8,600 Marines and as many as 12,000 dependents.

The military had been planning to build the Marine base on about 680 acres of civilian land in Dededo, in northern Guam.

The firing range was to go on the site of an ancient village, Pagat, also in northern Guam. The Navy began reevaluating this idea last year after a lawsuit alleged it had failed to adequately consider other locations that would affect the environment and historical sites less.

Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo said the announcement by the joint program office provided "clarity" on the Marine move. But it also created "ambiguity" and left questions unanswered about the future of some buildup commitments—including funding for infrastructure Japan was to have provided, he said.

Much of the infrastructure funding was offered because the Marines were moving into northern Guam, where the water and wastewater system are already at capacity.

However, now that it's uncertain where the Marine base will be built, the future and purpose of the infrastructure funding is unclear, Ludovici admitted.

Despite the funding ambiguity, Calvo said he thought the revised, smaller buildup would be healthier than the "hyper growth" that was expected under the original buildup plan.

Government estimates had priced the old buildup plan at somewhere between $10 billion and $23 billion, but the new buildup is supposed to cost about $8 billion. At one point the old buildup was expected to add as many as 79,000 people to Guam's population of 170,000.

"It would have been a stretch on our social, economic and political fiber in this community. And also on the environment," Calvo said. "With this more stretched-out time table ... it allows for an easier transition for the military forces to move to Guam."

The U.S. and Japan initially agreed on the plan to move the Marines in 2006. The deal was part of a broader arrangement designed to tamp down tensions in the U.S.-Japan defense alliance stemming in part from opposition in Okinawa to what many view as a burdensome U.S. military presence.

But the two nations have struggled to implement that plan amid opposition in Okinawa to a part of the deal that would keep a strategically important base—Marine Corps Air Station Futenma—within the prefecture.

U.S. lawmakers have meanwhile expressed concern about the high cost of boosting the military presence on Guam, a U.S. territory about 1,500 miles south of Tokyo and 3,700 miles southwest of Hawaii.

NMC offers review course for the NCLEX-RN

The CNMI Area Health Education Center, through the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute, is sponsoring a review course for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, NCLEX-RN.

To become a licensed registered nurse, candidates in the CNMI and in the U.S. must first pass the NCLEX-RN. To qualify to register for the review course, participants must have at least an associate degree in Nursing.

CNMI AHEC will subsidize this review course for those individuals who are legal residents of the CNMI (i.e., U.S. citizens and U.S. green card holders). Due to limited funding, however, subsidy is based on a first-come, first-serve basis. For others who do not meet the CNMI residency requirements, the fee for the course is $150.

This NCLEX-RN review course will run from June 8 to July 28, 2012, at Building N, Room 5 at the NMC As Terlaje campus. The schedule for the course is 5pm to 7pm on Fridays, and 9am to 12pm on Saturdays for a total of 40 hours.

Interested applicants must register by Friday, June 1, 2012, and submit a copy of their highest nursing degree and a valid I.D. (U.S. passport, driver's license, or birth certificate for verification upon registration). Full payment of the course fee is required before or upon registration and for admission. No refunds will be allowed after the first day classes are offered.

Additionally, NMC courses are required to have a minimum number of individuals enrolled in order to run. NMC reserves the right to cancel or reschedule such a course if this enrollment requirement is not met.

CDI courses are designed to improve individual knowledge and skills. If requested, certificates of completion may be awarded to each registered participant who completes all course requirements. CDI also provides customized trainings and courses upon request from interested individuals.

For more information or to register for the review course, visit the NMC Community Development Institute at the NMC As Terlaje campus in Building P. Those interested may also call CDI at 234-5498 Ext. 1005, 1010, 1019 or 1030, or email Orrin Pharmin at orrinp@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

American Samoa gets federal road project funds

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News/PIR)—Delegate Faleomavaega Eni says he has been informed by FEMA that American Samoa will receive close to $3 million in federal funding for two road projects—on each in Futiga and Leone.

Funding for both projects is provided by FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

For the Futiga Road Mitigation Project, the total project will cost a little over $1.9 million with 90-percent federal share, which means the federal government will fund more than $1.7 million of the total cost. The work to be done, which covers part of the road from Ili'ili up to the Taputimu turnoff, includes replacing utility timber poles and overhead copper and fiber cable, with underground construction of conduits and vaults.

For the Leone Road Mitigation Project, the total cost is a little over $1.1 million with the federal government funding $1.02 million or 90-percent of the total amount. The proposed work will start at the intersection of Taputimu and Lepuapua among Route 1 main road towards the Leone Digital Central Office and will also include replacing utility timber poles and overhead copper and fiber cable with underground construction of conduits and vaults.

"FEMA's approval of these grants underscores the federal government's commitment to help strengthen our roads and infrastructure in light of the devastation of the 2009 Tsunami, and I thank Administrator Fugate and Secretary Napolitano for continuing to see the need for mitigation in American Samoa," Faleomavaega said.

"I also want to commend Governor Togiola and his administration for their efforts in pursuing these federal grants, which are intended to develop hazard mitigation measures that are vital to reduce losses from future disasters in the Territory," Faleomavaega concluded.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA meeting today

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its monthly meeting today, May 8, at 3pm in the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai. The agenda includes reports from the president, steering committees, program manager, MMAC 2012, and program and project updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

OES PTSA meeting today

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be a PTSA meeting today, May8, 6pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales LIVE schedule in May

John Gonzales LIVE on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, will feature the topic "NMIRF officials tell all: The future of retirement pension in the NMI," with guests Fund administrator Richard S. Villagomez and the Fund's legal and management team.

The program airs from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on KMCV Channel 14 and rebroadcasts on Monday and Tuesday the following week. John Gonzales LIVE also rebroadcasts on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com) at 6pm Pacific Standard Time and 9pm Eastern Standard Time (Thursday, May 10 at 11am Chamorro Standard Time).

Next week, John Gonzales LIVE will feature the topic "Revenue Generating Measure(s)," with guests House Speaker Eli D. Cabrera and Vice Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro. It will air live on May 16, 2012, and rebroadcasts on May 21 and 22, all from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on KMCV Channel 14. Also available on Betelnut Radio.com on May 16 at 6pm Pacific Standard Time and 9pm Eastern Standard Time (Thursday, May 17 at 11am Chamorro Standard Time).

Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), OR emailing (johngonzaleslive@gmail.com).

On May 30, John Gonzales LIVE will feature the topic "Is CUC the root of our social and economic crisis due to expensive rates or is it normal? Guests are CUC executive director Abe Malae and deputy executive director Alan Fletcher. ***(PR)***

Free business workshops

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, will be hosting the following free workshops:

- **How to start a business:** May 11, 2012; June 8, 2012. Time: 1:30pm to 3:30pm.
- **How to write a business plan:** May 18, 2012; June 15, 2012. Time: 1:30pm to 3:30pm.
- **How to apply for a bank loan:** May 4, 2012; May 25, 2012; June 22, 2012. Time: 1:30pm to 3:30pm.
- **How to market your business outside the CNMI**: May 7, 2012. Time: 9am to 11am. June 1, 2012; June 29, 2012. Time: 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

All workshops will be held at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room on the first floor of the Familia Building in Garapan, Saipan. Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, one day before the workshop.

For more information contact Ralph or Linda at 664-3018. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities must be made 72 hours in advance. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

On this day you turn a year older. But no matter how many birthdays come and go, you will always be my little man who took his first step while holding on to my hand. Happy 4th birthday to our son, Joseph San Nicolas Kiyoshi! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and your siblings. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Shawn M. Camacho, who is celebrating his special day today, May 8, 2012. May you have a wonderful, exciting, and awesome day! Wishing you the greatest happiness, with all the gifts that life will bring. Greetings coming from Vanessa, Shalei, *familia*, and friends.

King officially opens modern hospital in Tonga

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—King Tupou VI proudly opened the Vaiola Hospital's building, built under a $40 million pa'anga (US$23.1 million) final phase redevelopment, with assistance from Japan, that has given the people of Tonga a hospital facility of an international standard.

The redevelopment of the old dilapidated hospital began over a decade ago through a major collaboration between several development partners. The Government of Japan was a major donor for the Vaiola Redevelopment Project that included three phases, starting in 2004.

The completion of the final phase, included the main building at Tofoa, which accommodates an outpatients department, accident and emergency ward, special clinics, pharmacy, dental services, hospital administration, a mortuary, a multipurpose hall, a building for the Queen Salote School of Nursing and a public car park.

"I would like to thank the Government and people of Japan for a beautiful and final phase of the development and refurbishment of Vaiola Hospital," said King Tupou VI in opening the facility.

The King noted that the opening of the hospital coincided with the birthday of the late King George Tupou V on May 4.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 8, 2000

Court stops relocation of Babauta

Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama on Friday issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) to halt the relocation of Resident Representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta from his Saipan's office in the Legislature Building in Capitol Hill. He set a hearing date on May 15, 2000 on the complaint filed by his lawyer, John M. Chambers, seeking to stop the eviction as well as to pay undetermined damages, attorney's fees and costs and to issue other legal and equitable relief deemed appropriate by the court. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial was named defendant to the lawsuit which came just hours before the deadline of his final warning that ordered Mr. Babauta to vacate the office by 2:00 p.m. last Friday and instructed the sergeant at arms to carry out the ultimatum.

Review of PCB level in Tanapag sought

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Division of Environmental Quality will meet today with the U.S. Army Corps in Hawaii to possibly come up with a cleanup criteria in Tanapag village and Cemetery 2 amid contamination of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). Norman Lovelace, program manager at EPA Region 9, said he will press with the Army Corps officials the importance of carrying out a cleanup of the cemetery before Nov. 1 as demanded by the village residents during last week's public hearing. Mr. Lovelace said he is optimistic that the cemetery, which has been ordered closed by the governor, will be cleared of PCB contamination as soon as possible. "It will be done and it should be done because that's what the people want," he said.

May 8, 2001

Apatang shifts allegiance to Covenant

Still several months away from the November elections, the Commonwealth's political arena is beginning to heat up manifested by a number of politicians who have either jumped ship or have been bumped off. This early, some candidates seeking for a slot in the Legislature have apparently fallen victims to political maneuvering by party officials. Just last week, Republican Party Chair Joseph C. Reyes gave Rep. David M. Apatang an ultimatum resulting to the legislator's decision to shift allegiance to the newly-formed Covenant Party.

Teno stays imposition of new gaming machine fees

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed a law that postpones implementation of the new licensing rates for some amusement machines in what appears to be an attempt to save the Commonwealth's struggling casino gaming industry. Mr. Tenorio mentioned the need for measures that would alleviate difficulties faced by Northern Marianas businesses considering the fact that the CNMI economy continues to reel from a deep crisis. House Bill 12-333 which aims to make permanent the waiver of the $6,000 fee for certain amusement machines operated by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission received the governor's nod as he noted the importance of helping local industries remain afloat sans undue burden from the government.

May 8, 2002

Telecom bill bounces back to panel

A bill that seeks to increase the gross revenue contribution rate of Verizon Pacifica from 0.5 percent to 2.5 percent was thrown back to the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportations and Communications after issues were raised over the wisdom and motive of the move. Under Standing Committee Report 13-23, committee chairman Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero had recommended the passage of House Bill 13-033 but House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider said there is a need for the bill to be reworded, particularly since the reason cited for the passage of the proposed measure is an alleged error on the part of the 12th Legislature.

Ordnance found at PCB treatment site

Workers at the PCB treatment site in Tanapag unearthed several pieces of vintage ordnance, prompting the Emergency Management Office to dispatch its men to the site and recover the explosives. EMO Deputy Director Mark S. Pangelinan said his men recovered a total of two live Japanese hand grenades and 14 empty shells of 105-millimeter projectile in two separate instances recently. Yesterday, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' representative Frank Ono said in a separate interview that an empty shell of an unidentified type of cylindrical ordnance measuring close to a foot in length and about 4 inches in diameter was also found at the PCB treatment site Monday.

Two Xavier High students named Gates Millennium Scholars

Two graduating seniors at Xavier High School in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia were named Gates Millennium Scholars by the Gates Millennium Scholars Program. The two members of Xavier's Class of 2012 are among 1,000 young scholars worldwide who have received the coveted award, which provides a full-cost scholarship for their entire undergraduate program at a college or university of their choice. The scholarship also can be extended for graduate studies.

This year's Gates Millennium Scholars at Xavier High School are Pearl Asugar of Weno, Chuuk and Honolulu, Hawaii; and Eleanor Titiml of Koror, Palau.

Asugar will attend St. Martin's University in Lacy, Washington, where she will major in civil engineering. Titiml will study marine biology at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

"We are extremely proud of Pearl and Eleanor. They have worked hard for this honor. Their Gates Millennium Scholarships will allow them to continue to excel in scholarship, leadership and service," said the Rev. R. Richard McAuliff, SJ, director of Xavier High School.

Asugar and Titiml are the latest Xavier High School students to be named Gates Millennium Scholars. Eight other Xavier seniors since 2000 have received the honor. They are Ryan Edgar, Witmark Tokeak, Sheryl Yumiko Lomongo, Jonathan Thinsew, Kayviann Hallers, and Michael Kigimnang.

Asugar is the daughter of Jack Edward and Doreen Asugar. Her maternal grandparents, Henry and Maggie Asugar, also raised her. The late Mr. Asugar was a member of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia representing Chuuk, and before that was a long-time Clerk of the FSM Congress.

Asugar XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

Titiml XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

Titiml is the daughter of Serafina Titiml and the late Rudimch Titiml. Her grandparents, Salvador Rekisiwang and Theodosia Ebibei, and Isau Titiml and Renguul Klaulechad, are also deceased.

This year's class of Gates Millennium Scholars includes 1,000 students from 47 states in the United States of America; the District of Columbia; the Marshall Islands; the Federated States of Micronesia; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Puerto Rico; and, the U.S. Virgin Islands, according to the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The program announced that this year's scholarship recipients would attend 348 colleges and universities. Current Gates Scholars attend a total of 723 colleges and universities in the United States.

The Catholic Church's Society of Jesus founded Xavier High School on Weno, Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, in 1952. It is a college preparatory boarding school for young men and women from across the Western Pacific in grades 9 through 12. Among its many distinguished graduates are presidents of the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, physicians, diplomats, lawyers, members of national Congresses and community and church leaders.

Xavier High School is accredited by the Western Association of School and Colleges. ***(PR)***

Navy to enter lease negotiations for 49-acre lot on US Naval Base Guam

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas will enter into exclusive negotiations with the successful offeror, Guam Industrial Services Inc., for lease of 49 acres of Navy property on U.S. Naval Base Guam. This site is currently being used for ship repair activities by Guam Industrial Services Inc.

"Following extensive competitive solicitation procedures [that] began in January and included an industry forum and a tour of the property, our series of technical and financial evaluation boards convened in March and April to complete their assessments," said NAVFAC Marianas Commanding Officer Capt. John Heckmann. "Our team is prepared to begin exclusive negotiations to discuss the details of this real estate arrangement. Our strong desire is to reach agreement on the terms of this important lease."

The Navy has determined that maintaining ship repair operations in Guam is strategically vital to the mission and operations of the Pacific Fleet. The scope of the required capability includes the ability to provide ship repair services to military ships, plus property and environmental management to ensure this capability is sustained at this location.

Negotiations are expected to commence immediately with an expected completion this summer. The current real estate agreement between the Navy and the Guam Economic Development Authority will expire at the end of September 2012. ***(NAVFAC)***

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE BOWL CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian JROTC Stallion Battalion Academic team won first place in the Multiple School Unit Academic Challenge Bowl on Sunday, May 6, 2012, which was held at the MSU office. The competition was composed of 50 questions. Half of the questions were about leadership, and the other 25 were based on the English portion of the SAT. All schools in the JROTC program (KHS, RHIJSHS, MHS, SSHS, and THS) did an outstanding job. The Stallion Battalion Academic Team was composed of Cadet Lt. Col. Mary Hocog, Cadet Maj. Richeena Farrell, Cadet Capt. Marquina Hofschneider, Cadet Capt. Rikkie Farrell, and Cadet Staff Sgt. Josue Cruz.

US fishery managers act to address endangered species, foreign fishing concerns

KOHALA COAST, Hawaii—The chairs and executive directors of the nation's eight Regional Fishery Management Councils concluded their three-day Council Coordination Committee meeting on Friday in Hawaii.

This year's CCC was hosted by the Western Pacific Council, whose jurisdiction includes the federally managed fisheries of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Manuel Duenas, chair of the Western Pacific Council and president of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association, presided over the meeting with Samuel D. Rauch III, acting assistant administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

Key concerns addressed by the U.S. fishery managers were the Endangered Species Act process, leveling the playing field between domestic and imported seafood markets, stock assessments, and preventing overfishing while achieving optimum yield from domestic fisheries.

The CCC noted that U.S. fisheries are affected by critical habitat designation, listing of species as endangered or threatened and other ESA measures. The CCC said the ESA process should have a higher level of transparency and public involvement than is currently typical. In agreement with the NOAA Scientific Integrity Policy, which calls for achieving a greater level of public confidence and trust in the science used in federal decision making, the CCC will establish a working group with NMFS and the Marine Fishery Advisory Council to address these issues.

Regarding international fisheries, the CCC noted that NMFS is working on its second report to Congress on the certification of nations with respect to equivalent measures to the United States in relation to preventing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, bycatch, and shark catches on the high seas. In its first report, NMFS did not negatively certify any nation, despite the generally accepted understanding that many nations importing seafood into the U.S. market are not on the same playing field as U.S. fisheries with respect to data collection and monitoring, safety at sea requirements, protected species mitigation, and other management measures. Therefore, the CCC recommended that NMFS enhance its activities to identify nations that do not implement equivalent measures.

The CCC also recommended that NMFS work with the U.S. fishing industry to develop underutilized fisheries. Developing these fisheries may benefit target and non-target stocks and protected species through transferred effects as well as promote employment in coastal communities and enhance local food security.

The United States currently imports about 86 percent of the seafood that it consumes, resulting in an annual seafood trade deficit of more than $10.4 billion—second only to oil in the natural resources category.

Among other matters, the CCC voiced concern that current stock assessments are inadequate to cope with fishery management needs. The CCC will request that NMFS consider basic data collection programs, explain the merit of advanced technology to attain information for stock assessments and appropriately allocate funds to NOAA Fisheries Science Centers to carry out regular stock assessments. The CCC also noted that additional stock assessment, monitoring and ecosystem assessment information will be needed by the Councils to fulfill the congressional mandate to manage all federally managed fisheries under annual catch limits.

The CCC recommended that the 2013 budget for the Councils remain the same as in 2012 at $28.4 million, noting that since the NMFS total budget is proposed to remain stable, the RFMC total budget should also be stable.

The CCC will also write to NOAA regarding its intent to modify the national standard that requires the prevention of overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the U.S. fishing industry.

The CCC is convened annually to enable the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA officials, and others to exchange information with the RFMCs.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the RFMCs are responsible for developing management plans for the nation's offshore fisheries. After approval by the Secretary of Commerce, the plans are implemented by NMFS.

Discussion on advancing sustainability of the nation's fisheries will continue at the third Managing Our Nation's Fisheries conference being organized by the RFMCs in partnership with NMFS. The conference will be held the first week of May 2013 in Washington, DC. ***(Wespac)***

Yap students visit canoe carving site

Approximately 30 students from St. Mary's Elementary School in Yap visited the canoe carving site in Colonia, home of the Waa'gey Canoe Building Project.

Waa'gey, in partnership with the Habele Outer Island Education Fund, was established to promote cultural activities among the island's youth.

"Every generation is responsible to the next generation for the instruction of our local customs and traditions. Never is that more apparent in the teaching and learning of these kinds of skills, which were acquired by our ancestors over thousands of years. Without the transfer of this knowledge and these skills, our heritage, in this regard, could be lost in a single generation," said Larry Raigetal, the founder of the Waa'gey NGO and it's Canoe Building Project.

The students of St. Mary's were shown some of the techniques required in building local canoes first hand by the carvers on site.

They were also treated to a tour of the Yap Living Museum and were informed about the cultural significance of such places by the staff of Yap's Historic Preservation Office.

Students of St. Mary's will continue to visit in groups continuing into this week through Wednesday. Several of the Sant Mary's students are attending that school through Habele's K-12 Tuition Scholarship Program, which supports low-income families sending their children to non-public schools. Learn more online at www.habele.blogspot.com. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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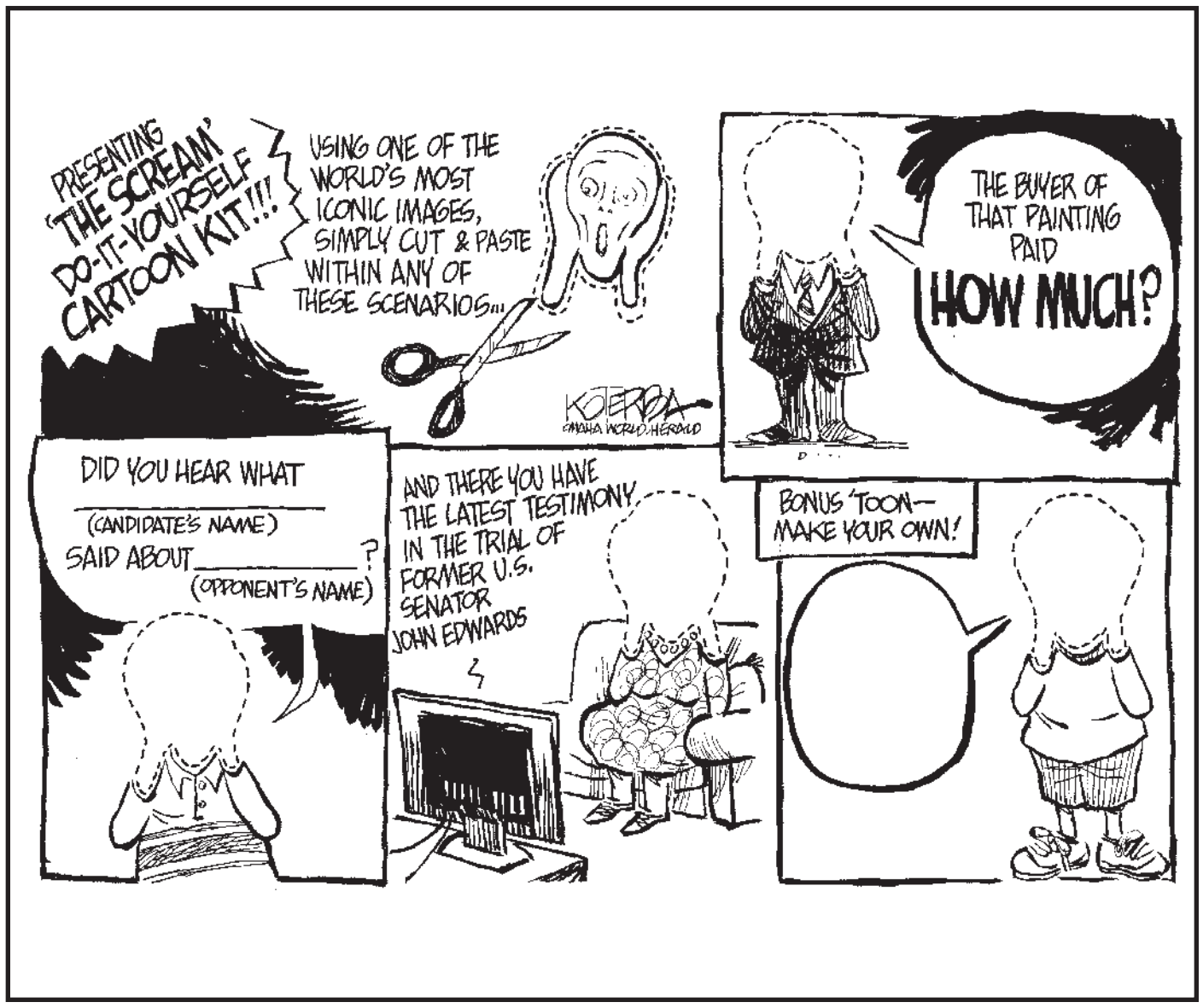
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BONUS 'TOON— MAKE YOUR OWN!

EDITORIAL

Afghanistan, without illusion

President Obama said a lot of fine things in his Tuesday-night speech from Afghanistan—about American commitment, about the sacrifice of U.S. troops, about finishing the job responsibly. But he was long on vision and short on specifics, raising questions about the future and wisdom of U.S. policy.

It is doubly hard to share Mr. Obama's upbeat tone after he signed a deal with Afghanistan's notoriously unreliable leader, Hamid Karzai, to prolong some kind of U.S. presence through 2024. Mr. Karzai is sometimes our friend, sometimes not. He has been critical, often openly disdainful, of the U.S.-led coalition and its leaders.

After more than 10 years of war, stability remains an elusive goal. No speech can change that. Mr. Obama declared that the Taliban's momentum had been stopped—"We've turned the tide"—but the Taliban unequivocally remains a potent force, capable of wreaking havoc even in relatively safe Kabul. As if to underline the point, the Taliban took responsibility for a suicide car bomb detonated outside a compound that houses contractors and aid workers just hours after Mr. Obama's speech. At least seven people were reported killed and 17 others wounded.

The commitment of Afghans to build a safe and secure country is the indispensable ingredient for stability. It remains a major question mark. Mr. Obama said the "partnership" signed with Mr. Karzai sends a message to the people of Afghanistan: "As you stand up, you will not stand alone."

That's a mighty big if. The Afghan military is not capable of holding its own against the Taliban even with the support of a strong U.S. and allied troop presence. There is little reason to believe it can do better as U.S. and NATO troops pull out.

All of this makes it extremely unlikely that the United States can withdraw its forces and leave behind a government with guaranteed staying power.

Nor should that be the goal. It was in the U.S. national interest to go after Osama bin Laden and his gang and end the possibility that Afghanistan could ever again serve as a safe haven for killers who pose a direct threat to this country. By and large, the taming of al-Qaida has been accomplished, with the killing of bin Laden confirming its decline

The Taliban is something else—a reflection of the decades-long struggle for power within Afghanistan that the United States cannot resolve for the Afghan people.

As a shrewd politician, Mr. Obama realizes that this country is war-weary. We have been there too long, spent too much money, offered too much sacrifice in blood. He emphasized that the United States will build no permanent bases there "nor will we be patrolling its cities and mountains."

But the "partnership" doesn't say what the U.S. role will be after that, nor what the U.S. pledge to provide help until 2024 consists of and what cost that will entail. As long as there is any U.S. government presence, Americans will be inviting targets for the Taliban.

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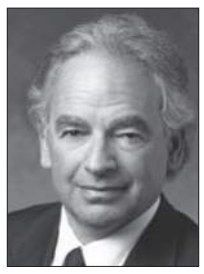
Sex and the Secret Service

By GREGORY J. WALLANCE
Los Angeles Times

Gregory J. Wallance, a lawyer and writer in New York, is the author of America's Soul in the Balance: The Holocaust, FDR's State Department, and the Moral Disgrace of an American Aristocracy, *from which this essay is adapted.*



The great irony of the Secret Service sex scandal is that for many decades its agents had protected presidents and senior officials from scandal over sexual trysts and romantic affairs—indeed, often discreetly facilitating them—only to embarrass itself in a hotel in Cartagena, Colombia. The 12 Secret Service employees being investigated for cavorting with at least 20 prostitutes last month were in Colombia to prepare for President Obama's arrival for the Summit of the Americas. A look at some episodes from the agency's past shows that these staffers should have known better.

A Secret Service agent stood guard while President Harding and his mistress slipped into a coat closet in the White House; Secret Service agents escorted FDR to wartime meetings with his former mistress Lucy Mercer Rutherfurd (her Secret Service code name was "Mrs. Johnson") when they began regularly seeing each other 20 years after their affair had ended; and, according to Ronald Kessler's "In the President's Secret Service," agents kept one eye out for Jackie Kennedy while her husband dallied with young women (with their comings and goings, the White House seems to have resembled a small bordello—not for nothing was "Lancer" the Secret Service code name for President Kennedy). And according to their grand jury testimony, Secret Service agents bent the rules for frequent Oval Office visitor Monica Lewinsky.

One of the Secret Service's most tactful—and for a time, successful—responses to official indiscretion occurred in September 1940 on a presidential train that had taken FDR and senior government officials to the Alabama funeral of the speaker of the House. Secretary of State Cordell Hull was ill, and his undersecretary, Sumner Welles—a brilliant diplomat, educated at Groton and Harvard, fluent in four languages and Roosevelt's chief foreign policy adviser—was there in his place, which meant that Welles had a sleeping car next to Roosevelt's.

After the funeral, attended by tens of thousands, the train headed back to Washington. Welles began drinking in the dining car with companions, most of whom left at 2 a.m. to go to sleep. By 4 a.m., Welles was alone and drunk. He staggered back to his sleeping compartment and rang for coffee. A Pullman porter named John Stone answered the bell, wearing a midnight blue uniform, buttoned to the neck, and a visored cap with a well-shined silver plate bearing the words "Pullman Porter." Pullman porters were all black men. Despite the strict racial hierarchies that the Pullman cars represented—the porters were given strict instructions to avoid touching white passengers as they walked through the narrow sleeping cars—the job of porter was a coveted one. It was akin to working in a luxury hotel, and many held their positions for decades.

Stone entered the compartment. Notwithstanding that Welles' sleeping car was immediately adjacent to the president's, Welles, who had a history of bisexual behavior, propositioned Stone to engage in paid sex. Stone politely but firmly declined and returned to the dining car. Other porters who answered Welles' bell reported less direct but unmistakable advances. The porters reported what had happened to Pullman officials on the train, who alerted Dale Whiteside, the chief of the president's Secret Service contingent.

Whiteside understood the need for careful handling of the extraordinarily awkward situation. He ordered a porter to take coffee to Welles' compartment and leave the door open, as he waited in the passageway. Welles came out of his compartment and exclaimed, "What is Whiteside doing in this car?" He went back into the compartment and slammed the door. The rest of the trip passed uneventfully.

Even with rumors flying around Washington almost as soon as the train pulled into Union Station, Welles held on to his job until 1943, partly because of Whiteside's quick response and partly because no one could believe, as Welles' biographer wrote in "Sumner Welles: FDR's Global Strategist," that "a senior government official in his right mind—least of all the patrician under secretary of State—would solicit Pullman porters on a train carrying the president, the Cabinet, the Secret Service and railway officials."

Eventually, Welles' enemies, which included Secretary of State Hull, put the story together and went to Roosevelt, who first tried to defuse the scandal with humor—"Well, he's not doing it on government time, is he?"—but eventually had to let Welles go.

But the point is, for the better part of a century, the Secret Service has understood the imperative need for tact and discretion in the handling of a seemingly endless variety of dalliances and improprieties by presidents and other high officials, lest embarrassment, or worse, result. Somehow, in Cartagena, to the embarrassment of everyone, including the president of the United States, some of its members threw all that experience right out the window.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Women falling for 50 shades of degradation

A hundred years of the women's movement and what do we have? Women sneaking off to read "mommy porn" on their Nooks.

Wouldn't our suffragette grandmothers be proud?

You've heard about "Fifty Shades of Grey," right? Despite what most men might think, this terribly popular book has very little to do with encouraging its readers to let their hair revert to its natural color.

Guys who think this novel will prevent their wives from going to the beauty parlor are kidding themselves. If anything, the opposite is true: Women are going to the salon so that they can meet other women to discuss sadomasochism and dominance while complaining the water is too hot as a stylist shampoos them out.

And make no mistake: the women reading E.L. James' book are of the graying group. It's not 18- to 26-year-olds who are devouring pages (or screens) of panting and un-panting. They are too busy doing it to read about it.

Notice that women reading the book are not attempting to look better or become more seductive for the actual men in their lives. The actual men in their lives have become props; they are far less significant than the passage held by the bookmark.

Women are swatting away their small children in order to finish the sexy bits, of which there are many (actually, there's nothing else). They are staying in their sweat pants and ordering General Tso's three times per week instead of cooking, going to work or fulfilling their "Literacy in America" volunteer commitments.

Why? Apparently the majority of 21st-century women are now fantasizing about the tortured—and torturing—hero of "Fifty Shades of Grey," a hugely rich man named Christian. My bet is that wealthy, virile, jet-owning men aren't exactly thumbing through the text because they're thumbing, umm, through The Wall Street Journal. (You thought I was going to say something else, didn't you?)

Not that there's anything wrong with powerful men. Some are sort of cute. Even the ones who aren't cute often exude an intriguing mix of power, charm and savior faire (French for "expensive car") that explains their attraction for naive woman. Such guys might especially appeal to a significantly younger woman within their circle of influence even when their allure is starting to fade. Think Donald Trump. Think Henry Kissinger. Think Yoda.

Women are encouraged by our culture to look for men who will provide them with an identity, even if that identity is "slave." The more prominent and elevated a man, the more difficult it is to secure his recognition, and so the more valuable his attention becomes. This sort gives women, especially insecure women, a sense that they are somebody if the powerful man knows their name, their tastes or wears their ties—or makes them wear his.

It's as if such women are invisible until a powerful man looks in their direction and then they have achieved what they've always wanted: a name for themselves as so-and-so's latest object of desire. It used to be that the name women wanted from these relationships was wife, but that is no longer the case.

And I don't think we've moved up a notch, either.

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant*. She can be reached through her website at http://www.ginabarreca.com.*

Just when we thought our daughter's futures would be defined, stronger positions in the worlds of the culture, the workplace, the family and politics, it turns a lot of women are soaking up this message, "You want me to make choices? OK, then! I am choosing to be submissive to a man who has a playroom of pain and who wants to decide what I eat, where I go and purchases my electronic devices."

Do we really want to keep underscoring the lesson that women will obey you if (1) Cash is dangled front of them; and (2) They are treated poorly emotionally and physically?

Women are pretending that they are the virginal heroine (with the all-too common name of "Anastasia Steele"—don't you know, like, 12 women with that name?) whom he chooses as his object of desire.

Except "desire" is maybe not the right word for it: maybe "target" or "victim" would be more accurate.

And maybe "bondage" is a just sexy word for "degradation."

Still wanting to be supermom

It looks like Supermom is here to stay. Women ages 18 to 34, in a new survey, rated "high-paying career" high on their list of life priorities. For the first time, women in this age group outnumbered men in considering it important—66 percent of women, compared with 59 percent of men. The last time this question was asked of this age group, in 1997, the sexes ranked "career" roughly equal in importance (56 percent of women and 58 percent of men).

At the same time, being a good parent and having a successful marriage continued to rank significantly high on everyone's list. "They haven't given any ground on marriage and parenthood," said researcher Kim Parker of the Pew Research Center, which conducted the study. "In fact, there is even more emphasis (on home life) than 10 to 15 years ago."

The story line over the past couple of decades has been that, for the most part, women would prefer to stay home with children. Those who could afford it were "opting out" of the workplace for home. The recent stir over Ann Romney's stay-at-home motherhood reawakened culturally conservative voices claiming that her choice is superior for women, and certainly better for kids.

But Parker believes that young women's expectations about the need to earn a paycheck are changing their attitudes. They were surveyed as the damage of the 2008 recession—dubbed the "mancession" for how men lost jobs disproportionately—was still playing out. "The reality is hitting women that they cannot rely on a male breadwinner," Parker says.

On a brighter note, she adds, young women have seen older women reap the fruits of workplace success and "are motivated to take on big roles." Women have been outpacing men for some time in earning college and graduate degrees. There are now three women on the Supreme Court, women play major roles in government, they're running large companies and building media empires—all of this inspires.

Pew also surveyed men and women aged 35 to 64, who responded at roughly the same rate (43 percent and 42 percent) that being successful in a high-paying career or profession is important. In 1997, middle-age men greatly outranked women: 41 percent to 26 percent.

The big rise in middle-aged women who care about their careers probably reflects both opportunity and necessity, Parker says. But, you'll notice that young women are more positive about work than their middle-aged counterparts. Parker believes that the allure of "having it all" wears off once women are faced with the reality of super-motherhood. In fact, moms who work full time have told numerous pollsters that they would prefer part-time employment if it were available to them.

Often, scaling back from full-time work means a loss of health benefits, seniority, security and status. Employers as a whole could be doing a better job to help moms cope—and as the women in the 18-to-34 age group move up and have children, perhaps there will be more reason for employers to do so.

Governments could also be doing more to raise the quality of child care and birth leave support for both fathers and mothers.

Finally, individuals need to do a better job of thinking through their competing desires, and choose careers that accommodate parenthood well. Doctors, lawyers and accountants—and people who are willing to shift into lower-paying nonprofit or government sectors—often find more flexibility in their schedules.

Supermom is great as a concept—using all of your human abilities in a lifetime. But there's a lot more that can be done to take the risk and stress off parents' shoulders.

By ANNE MICHAUD
Newsday

Anne Michaud is interactive editor for Newsday *and a member of its editorial board.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Debris and trash not the issue; prosperity is!

Debris and trash is not the issue and I can tell the words "debris" and "trash" are hard for many people to digest, which is understandable but prosperity is the real issue. The people who are upset over the deal really need to *stop, think, look, and listen* before rushing to judgment. The federal government, who are our very capable protectors by law, have made it clear they are watching this issue to make sure no hazardous materials are brought into the CNMI, so what is all the hype about? It is amazing that some people are getting all upset when there is nothing to worry about or are they just using the debris and trash to continue incubating fear in the community to stop anything from happening on Pagan for selfish reasons? We are getting sidetracked again on the issue of selling pozzolan, never mind the debris and waste because we can take advantage of the free federal protection services.

I'm sure we can trust the federal government to protect us on this issue, especially when it is very obvious that citizens are aware and calling for accountability on the safeness of the debris and waste. So we should let the feds do their job and move on to the real question of how we can capitalize on the sale of pozzolan. The investor still wants the pozzolan so regardless of what happens with the debris and trash we still have pozzolan to sell! We should have been doing our homework on pozzolan a long time ago so we could be making a deal to sell some of it. I haven't heard one price quote on the "true value" of the pozzolan. There hasn't been any research by the CNMI to determine the different applications for pozzolan. It is obvious we have our work cut out for us and we need to get started yesterday.

I know there are naturalist and cultural preservationist who are concerned but please consider this: At one time Saipan looked just like Pagan to a large degree but progress changed all of that so you can't expect Pagan to remain the same forever. Secondly, Pagan will be passed on to the next owners (future society) and it is far better to pass on something that is viable and contributing to the quality of life for everyone than to leave something that is only good to look at. There is also the real fact that there is no telling what the next generation will do with Pagan and those who are complaining won't be able to do squat because we will all be in our graves. So protect Pagan from the hazardous materials but we can't play God with Pagan. As for the cultural preservationists, the work to preserve the culture needs to be done here on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota where the majority of locals live. The people that frequent the Northern Islands are already culturally literate.

The governor said something in the news in regards to Commissioner Mafnas that was very right about the culture in the CNMI. He said, "The people want to be told nicely" and I wish there was a nice way of saying this but sometimes the truth just can't be sugarcoated—this is too serious and there is too much at stake. It is not my intent to insult anyone but to educate the public on the cold hard facts that are being manipulated for all the wrong reasons. The CNMI is starving and we need to get busy, especially when we are presented with good opportunities to find prosperity in jobs and revenues that will not have an adverse effect on society in the present or future.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Where is tourism master plan?

Is the "tourism master plan" document on MVA's website? How can we have access to a copy of this material? Is this one of those common practice of "the cart before the bull" done deal, and the general public is completely out of the loop on this? Why is the managing director of MVA saying very little about this document? Or is this one of those OJT for him as if the CNMI owes him a favor? At least, publish some bullet points as a starter so we could assess whether this master plan is worth the paper it is written on and something of interest for all to celebrate for. I just hope that this is not a boilerplate of some destination area that is hijacked by professionals in the field. We would not know what this master plan is all about until the major stakeholders have a chance to examine it with a fine-toothed comb.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Reminder

Dear active employees of the defined benefit plan: Just a reminder to please come to the American Memorial Park Amphitheater, today, May 8, at 6:30pm. We will have an informational session, plus a time to ask questions, sign petitions, and network with other active employees. Thank you for your time.

Mark Staal
As Matuis, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

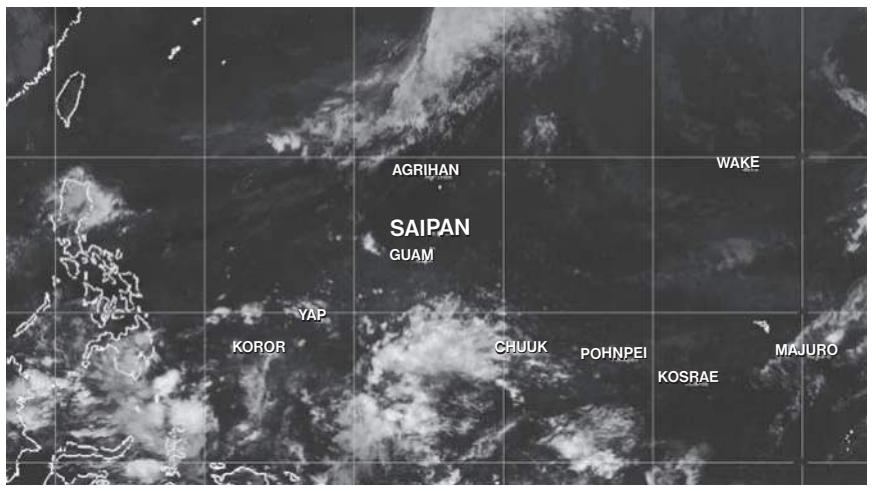
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲66	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲92	▼58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Sunny	▲82	▼70
London	Showers	▲62	▼51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77	▼57
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼82
Melbourne	Sunny	▲70	▼54
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼71
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼55
Osaka	Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Paris	Showers	▲63	▼58
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼60
Rome	Sunny	▲74	▼59
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼54
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼62
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 7, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches southwestward from northwest of Minami Tori Shima to 25N146E then continues as a stationary front to a low pressure system centered southeast of Okinawa at 22N134E. Cloudiness with widespread rain and a few thunderstorms is found along and north of these features to beyond 25N. A surface trough extends northeastward from a low-level circulation centered southwest of Koror at 3N130E to 14N136E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near the circulation southwest of Koror west of a line from 4N130E to 2N135E. Isolated thunderstorms are seen near the trough axis just north of Koror and Yap within 45 miles of a line from 9N130E to 10N138E. Another surface trough runs northward from EQ144E to 10N143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near this system between Yap and Chuuk within 250 miles of a line from 1N142E to 10N148E. Similar weather is also evident southeast of Chuuk between the equator and 4N from 153E to 159E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers near the date line east of a line from 1N173E to 8N178E. A third surface trough reaches northeastward from north of Kwajalein at 12N168E to beyond 25N at 175E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring east of Wake Island or north of a line from 13N173E to 17N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:56 PM	7:31 AM
Wednesday	9:56 PM	8:34 AM
Thursday	10:50 PM	9:36 AM
Friday	11:39 PM	10:36 AM
Saturday		11:32 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Markets could stumble after France, Greece votes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Financial markets will likely stumble this week after elections in Greece and France cast a pall of uncertainty over Europe's efforts to solve its debt crisis.

On Sunday night, the euro plunged to $1.2988, a nearly five-month low.

Greek voters on Sunday voted mostly for two parties that want to change the nation's international bailout terms or even overturn its rescue deal, according to early projections of the election results. Greece won't have a government until parties with divergent worldviews can form a governing coalition.

Greek voters are reacting against spending cuts imposed on the recession-weary nation by the international lenders whose bailouts are keeping it afloat.

Also Sunday, French President Nicolas Sarkozy lost in a runoff election to Socialist candidate Francois Hollande. Hollande has criticized France's austerity program and wants to encourage growth by boosting government spending.

Sunday's votes raise serious doubts about whether voters will swallow the current plan of international bailouts coupled with severe cost-cutting, economists said.

AP

A man speaks on a mobile phone in front of a securities firm's electronic stock board in Tokyo, Monday, May 7, 2012. Asian stock markets were pummeled Monday by weekend election results in Greece and France that heightened uncertainty about Europe's ability to solve its debt crisis. Japan's Nikkei 225 index plunged 2.6 percent to 9,134.26.

Many believe the austerity program is necessary to keep bond investors from panicking about the possibility that more European nations will default or require bailouts. But a growing number, like Hollande, say the cuts have been too much, too fast. They say the region's economy can't return to growth unless governments stop tightening the fiscal noose and start spending again to create demand.

Uncertainty about the path forward in Europe may mean a return to extreme market volatility after several months of relative calm.

Here's a look at what Sunday's elections might mean for global investors.

GREECE

■ **How much does it matter?**

A great deal. The financial mess in Greece has rocked financial markets for years. To stay afloat, Greece's government depends on loans from international creditors, and it must meet strict targets on cuts if it wants to keep receiving money. But Greek voters elevated two parties that rejected terms of the bailout. If Greek leaders refuse to stick to terms of the bailout deal, the International Monetary Fund may pull the plug on supplying funds.

"Given the degree of uncertainty that is going to enter Greek policymaking after these elections, I suspect the prospects of Greece being able to undertake serious reforms has been reduced even further," said Cornell University professor Eswar Prasad.

■ **Best-case outcome:** Greek parties build a governing majority that negotiates successfully with international lenders. Greece's lenders will dial back some demands for austerity to quell political unrest and allow the Greek economy to recover. Greece will continue to use the euro.

■ **Worst-case outcome:** Greece's new leaders are unable to find common ground with international lenders. The IMF pulls the plug on future bailouts and richer European nations refuse to step in. Greece defaults and leaves the euro currency or is expelled. There is panic among holders of bonds issued by other financially troubled countries, creating a cascade of defaults and requiring more bailouts.

■ **Market outlook:** It could take weeks for Greece's political parties to form a governing coalition, experts said. And the country is expected to take yet more austerity measures in June. Parliamentary developments will likely drive trading in the coming weeks, especially if investors begin to fear that a new government is unstable and the bailout program at risk.

Yet even if Greece defaults and leaves the euro, the impact on international markets might be small, said Jacob Kirkegaard, a research fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Bond investors already know that Greece is in a fiscal mess, and have marked down the value of their holdings, he noted.

"It wouldn't be without waves, but it would be a manageable situation," Kirkegaard said.

FRANCE:

■ **How much does it matter?**

Experts disagree. Some say Hollande emphasized his differences with Sarkozy for political reasons, but will pursue a similar path of budget cuts once he takes power. Others believe Hollande's strong rebuke of the austerity plan could change the minds of European politicians currently focused on deep cuts to spending on social welfare programs and worker benefits.

■ **Best-case outcome:** Hollande teams up effectively with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has led the crisis response with Sarkozy. His proposal to soften austerity measures is embraced by France's parliament and bond investors, allowing France to balance its budget on a slower schedule. His view that government spending will combat the recession proves accurate, other nations follow suit and Europe returns to growth in the next couple of years.

■ **Worst-case outcome:** In parliamentary elections next month, French voters elevate far-left politicians. To assuage them, Hollande boosts spending sharply and rejects austerity and other reforms aimed at stabilizing France's debt load. France falls deeper into debt and faces further downgrades by credit rating agencies. Renewed fears about a French default kick off a fresh wave of crisis fears, destabilizing global markets.

■ **Market outlook:** Hollande's ability to reshape French and European policy hinges heavily on the upcoming parliamentary elections. Markets are unlikely to react strongly to his election until they have a clearer sense of what Hollande will be able to do, experts said. But traders will want an answer soon, said Cornell's Prasad, who studies trade policy.

"I don't think markets have the patience to string this out until summer," he said. If France's finances appear less stable, traders would have one more reason to abandon stocks and other risky investments.

Oil plunges below $97 on US demand, Europe votes

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil dived below $97 a barrel Monday in Asia, bringing its fall over three trading days to about 8 percent, as a slowdown in U.S. hiring and election results in Europe dimmed expectations of stronger economic growth.

Benchmark oil for June delivery was down $1.87 to $96.62 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract plunged $4.05 to settle at $98.49 in New York on Friday. Brent crude for June delivery was down $1.81 at $111.37 per barrel in London.

Crude has slumped about 8 percent over the last three trading sessions amid signs oil demand may be weaker than previously expected.

The Energy Department said last week that U.S. crude inventories have risen to the highest since 1990. That was followed by the Labor Department on Friday announcing the economy added 115,000 jobs in April, far fewer than the 165,000 analysts were expecting.

"Economic indicators both in the U.S. and Europe are taking on a more negative appearance," energy trader and consultant Ritterbusch and Associates said in a report.

Investors are also concerned political upheaval in Europe could derail government austerity measures and worsen the region's debt problems.

French Socialist Francois Hollande, who promised during the presidential election campaign to boost spending, defeated President Nicolas Sarkozy. In Greece, the pro-austerity coalition parties suffered a sharp decline in support, which might undermine efforts to keep Greece in the euro currency bloc.

Oil traders often look to global equities as a measure of overall investor sentiment, and stock markets in Asia were down sharply Monday.

In other energy trading, heating oil was down 3 cents at $2.98 per gallon and gasoline futures fell 2 cents to $2.96 per gallon. Natural gas was up 1.5 cents at $2.29 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Delta posts strong April financial, operational performance

Delta Air Lines reported strong revenue and operations for April 2012.

Delta's consolidated passenger unit revenue increased 11 percent for the month of April as compared to the prior year. During the month, Delta saw strong unit revenue improvement across all entities, driven by capacity discipline, corporate booking strength, and benefits from investments in products and services.

System traffic increased 1.1 percent on a 1.3 percent reduction in capacity, resulting in a 2.0 point improvement in load factor.

The company's fuel price per gallon was $3.44, consistent with expectations underlying recent second quarter fuel guidance. Delta expects to realize the majority of June quarter's hedge benefits in May and June.

Delta continued to make significant improvements in its operational performance during the month. Delta's completion factor of 99.8 percent was 0.8 points higher than prior year, and its on-time performance improved 12.6 points to 90.9 percent.

Delta Air Lines serves more than 160 million customers each year. During the past year, Delta was named domestic "Airline of the Year" by the readers of Travel Weekly magazine, was named the "Top Tech-Friendly U.S. Airline" by PCWorld magazine for its innovation in technology and won the Business Travel News Annual Airline Survey. ***(Delta)***

Google wins top rating in survey of interns

By TIFFANY HSU
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Google Inc., with its free meals, high monthly pay and relaxed work environment, was rated by interns as the best place to work in a report released just ahead of the peak summer internship season.

A software engineering intern at the search engine giant can expect an average monthly pay of $6,463, according to career website Glassdoor. Google interns, who voted the company as the most satisfying place to work, also reported additional perks such as face time with managers and opportunities to sit in on meetings.

Microsoft Corp., where research interns earn $6,746 each month, was second. The rest of the 10 best-rated internships includes spots at Qualcomm Inc., MTV Networks, State Farm Insurance, Intel Corp., General Electric Co., Procter & Gamble Co., Johnson & Johnson and Cisco Systems Inc.

The Glassdoor report includes commentary from interns working at nearly 3,300 companies over the last three years.

Employers are expected to boost their internship hiring by nearly 9 percent this summer but are paying interns less, according to a report last month from the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Undergraduate interns will get $14.21 an hour—down 2.8 percent from last year, with freshmen getting $13.91 an hour and seniors earning $17.57.

But more than 80 percent of companies plan to offer added benefits. Nearly 60 percent of firms will help interns with relocation costs.

Intern-seeking businesses generally reserve 1 percent of their recruiting budgets to online networking, instead preferring to find candidates at career fairs and on-campus information and recruiting sessions, according to the report.

In the aftermath of the recession, many laid-off workers are competing with students for internship positions, which can often lead to jobs. The study found that employers are turning nearly 59 percent of interns into full-time hires—a record.

A study last year by the Heldrich Center found that students who had internship experience earned a median salary that was $6,680 higher than their non-intern peers.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Biden OK with equal rights for married gay couples

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Joe Biden says he's "absolutely comfortable" with gay couples who marry getting the same civil rights and liberties as heterosexual couples, a stand that gay rights advocates interpreted as an endorsement of same-sex marriage. Biden told NBC's "Meet the Press" that marriage should be about being loyal to someone you love, whether that marriage is between a man and a woman, two men or two women. "I am absolutely comfortable with the fact that men marrying men, women marrying women and heterosexual men and women marrying one another are entitled to the same exact rights, all the civil rights, all the civil liberties," Biden said in the interview broadcast Sunday.

Al-Qaida releases video of American hostage

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a video released Sunday by al-Qaida, American hostage Warren Weinstein said he will be killed unless President Barack Obama agrees to the militant group's demands. "My life is in your hands, Mr. President," Weinstein said in the video. "If you accept the demands, I live; if you don't accept the demands, then I die." Weinstein was abducted last August in Lahore, Pakistan, after gunmen tricked his guards and broke into his home. In a video message posted on militant websites in December, al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri said Weinstein would be released if the United States stopped airstrikes in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. He also demanded the release of all al-Qaida and Taliban suspects around the world.

Authorities try to ID bodies, search for mom, kids

WHITEVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Authorities were working Sunday to identify two bodies found at a Mississippi residence associated with a man suspected of abducting a woman and her three young daughters. The FBI has said two bodies were found over the weekend at a home connected to 35-year-old Adam Mayes in Guntown, Miss., but agents have released few other details. Authorities believe that Mayes abducted the woman, Jo Ann Bain, and her three daughters, ages 8 to 14. On Sunday, forensic scientists with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation searched the garage and backyard at the Hardeman County, Tenn. home where Bain, her husband and their children lived.

Who's who? Obama, Romney projecting mirror image

WASHINGTON (AP)—He's a smug, Harvard-trained elitist who doesn't get how regular Americans are struggling these days. More extreme than he lets on, he's keeping his true agenda hidden until after Election Day. He's clueless about fixing the economy, over his head on foreign policy. Who is he?

Your answer will help decide the next president.

Is it Barack Obama, as seen by Mitt Romney? Or Romney, the way Obama depicts him? For all their liberal versus conservative differences, when the two presidential contenders describe each other, they sound like they're ragging on the same flawed guy. Or mirror images of that guy.

Will voters prefer the man waving with his left hand or his right?

Blame it on two cautious candidates with more traits in common than their disparate early biographies would suggest.

Obama

Romney

No Drama Obama is panned as professorial and aloof. Romney is deemed boring when he's not being awkward.

Distrusted as too moderate within his own party, each is demonized as a radical by the other side. They don't get specific about the tough stuff, like budget cuts or taxes, that would invite more precisely calibrated negative ads.

Add a presidential contest buried beneath a single issue, the economy, and original lines of attack are scarce. The candidates take jabs anyway.

"They're trying to define each other. That's what it's all about," said Ken Duberstein, chief of staff to President Ronald Reagan. "They're throwing out different characterizations to see which one resonates."

With quickie Internet videos and instant comebacks via Twitter, "the attack and counterattack is happening in real time," said political communications expert Kathleen Hall Jamieson. "Campaigns are working to make sure nothing is missed."

Attacks big or small get batted back, even if the response amounts to "I know you are, what am I?"

Democrats accuse Republicans of a "war on women," Romney's campaign notes rising female unemployment during the Obama years.

The Obama camp jokes about Romney's dog riding on the roof of the family car; Republicans respond that Obama ate dog meat as a boy in Indonesia.

Both candidates are slammed as:

"Out of touch" with ordinary Americans.

Obama: Cloistered in the White House. Hangs out with celebrities, acting "cool." Doesn't understand the real world because "he spent too much time at Harvard," according to Romney, who earned two Harvard degrees himself.

Romney: Grew up wealthy, with a governor for a father. Worth $200 million or more. He's the kind of guy who had a Swiss bank account and wants a car elevator for his beach house, the Democrats note.

Bad for the middle class.

Obama: Failed to deliver on his promises to help Americans "struggling to find good jobs and make ends meet," the Romney camp says. Median household income is down, unemployment up since he took office.

Romney: Wants to reduce taxes on the wealthy while devastating Medicare and cutting education, health care and other programs the middle class need, Democrats charge. Obama says that amounts to "social Darwinism."

Suspiciously secretive.

Obama: Believing his microphone off, assured the Russian president he would have "more flexibility" after Election Day. Obama will reveal "his true positions only after the election is over," Romney says. Republicans predict he would tack left on the environment, spending, gay rights and other issues.

Romney: Told campaign donors of plans to cut or eliminate the housing and education agencies as well as others—ideas he hasn't disclosed publicly. "What's Mitt hiding?" Democrats ask, demanding more about his personal tax returns and investments, too.

Too extreme.

Obama: Hopes to create "a European-style social welfare state," Romney says, and "put free enterprise on trial." Endorsing Romney, Newt Gingrich called Obama "the most radical, leftist president in American history."

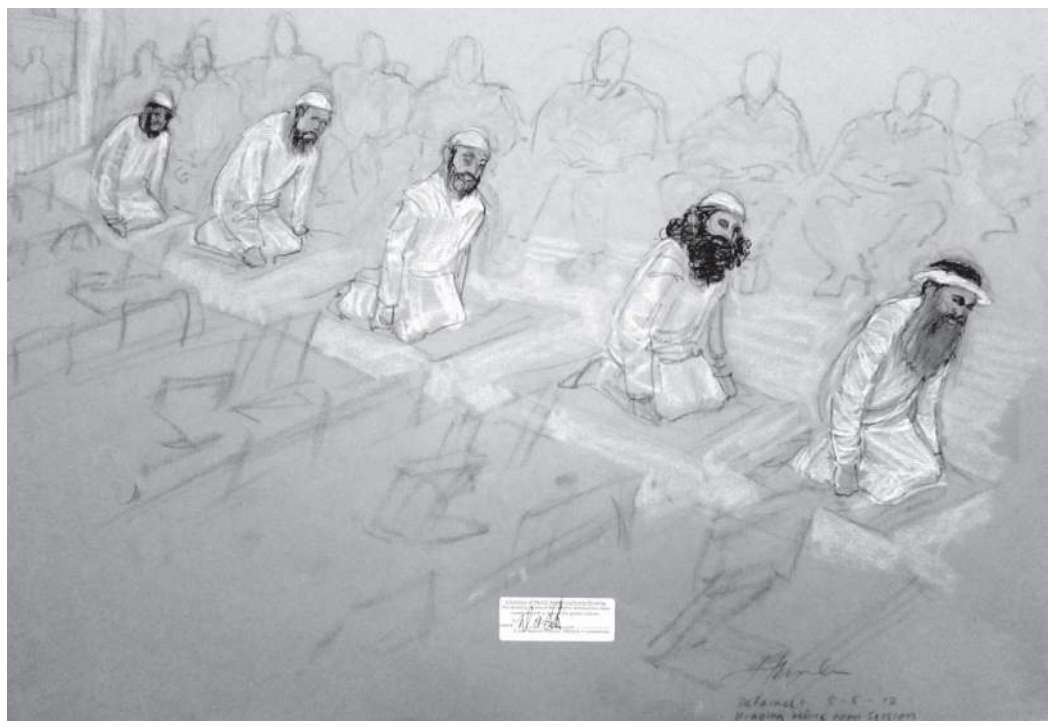
Romney: Referred to himself as "severely conservative." He's "extreme on women's issues," Democrats contend. Obama places him to the right of Reagan and suggests he's akin to Barry Goldwater.

Unable to fix the economy.

Obama: Can't get the jobless rate below 8 percent. He "delayed the recovery and made it anemic," according to Romney, who says Obama lacks the private sector experience necessary to understand the economy.

Romney: As a venture capitalist, laid off workers and shipped jobs to Mexico, the Obama campaign says. Also created Massachusetts jobs more slowly than other governors of the time, Democrats note.

Long fight predicted in Guantanamo Sept. 11 case


AP

In this photo of a sketch by courtroom artist Janet Hamlin and reviewed by the U.S. Department of Defense, Mustafa Ahmad al-Hawsawi, Ammar al Baluchi, Ramzi Binalshibh, Walid bin Attash and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed pray during their arraignment at the Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base in Cuba, Saturday, May 5, 2012.

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—The U.S. has finally started the prosecution of five Guantanamo Bay prisoners charged in the Sept. 11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, but the trial won't be starting anytime soon, and both sides said Sunday that the case could continue for years.

Defense lawyer James Connell said a tentative trial date of May 2013 is a "placeholder" until a true date can be set for the trial of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-described mastermind of the attacks, and his co-defendants.

"It's going to take time," said the chief prosecutor, Army Brig. Gen. Mark Martins, who said he expects to battle a barrage of defense motions before the case goes to trial.

"I am getting ready for hundreds of motions because we want them to shoot everything they can shoot at us," he said.

Saturday's arraignment lasted 13 hours, including meal and prayer breaks, as the accused appeared to make a concerted effort to stall the initial hearing, which didn't end until almost 11 p.m.

"Everyone is frustrated by the delay," Martins said on Sunday. He noted that the civilian trial of convicted Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui took four years, and he pleaded guilty in 2006 before being sentenced to life in prison.

On Saturday, Mohammed and his co-defendants refused to respond to the judge or use the court's translation system and one of the men demanded a lengthy reading of the charges. Connell called the tactics "peaceful resistance to an unjust system."

The arraignment, Connell said, "demonstrates that this will be a long, hard-fought but peaceful struggle against secrecy, torture and the misguided institution of the military commissions."

The defendants' actions outraged relatives of the victims.

"They're engaging in jihad in a courtroom," said Debra Burlingame, whose brother, Charles, was the pilot of the plane that flew into the Pentagon. She watched the proceeding from Brooklyn on one of the closed-circuit video feeds around the United States.

A handful of those who lost family members in the attacks were selected by a lottery and flown to watch the proceedings at the U.S. naval base in Cuba, where Mohammed and his co-defendants put off their pleas until a later date.

They face 2,976 counts of murder and terrorism in the 2001 attacks that sent hijacked jetliners into New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The charges carry the death penalty.

Wife Skyping with soldier saw bullet hole

DALLAS (AP)—An Army nurse showed no alarm or discomfort before suddenly collapsing during a Skype video chat with his wife, who saw a bullet hole in a closet behind him, his family said Sunday.

Capt. Bruce Kevin Clark's family released a statement describing what his wife saw in the video feed recording her husband's death in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan. It's not clear how the bullet hole got in the closet.

Clark

"Clark was suddenly knocked forward," the statement from the soldier's family said. "The closet behind him had a bullet hole in it. The other individuals, including a member of the military, who rushed to the home of CPT Clark's wife also saw the hole and agreed it was a bullet hole."

The statement says the Skype link remained open for two hours on April 30 as family and friends in the U.S. and Afghanistan tried to get Clark help.

"After two hours and many frantic phone calls by Mrs. Clark, two military personnel arrived in the room and appeared to check his pulse, but provided no details about his condition to his wife," the statement said.

In the statement, Susan Orellana-Clark said she was providing details of what she saw "to honor my husband and dispel the inaccurate information and supposition promulgated by other parties."

U.S. officials in Afghanistan referred questions to the Pentagon, which previously referred questions to the William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, where Clark was assigned.

The Pentagon said previously that Clark's death remains under investigation.

Clarence Davis, spokesman for William Beaumont Army Medical Center, declined to comment on Clark's family's statement.

Clark, 43, grew up in Michigan and previously lived in Spencerport, N.Y., a suburb of Rochester, his wife's hometown. He joined the Army in 2006 and was stationed in Hawaii before he was assigned to the medical center in El Paso. He deployed to Afghanistan in March.

Asia

Activist crisis is US envoy's human rights moment

BEIJING (AP)—As a former U.S. commerce secretary and governor of Washington state, Gary Locke wasn't considered much of a heavyweight on human rights when he became the first Chinese-American ambassador to Beijing last year. Trade and maintaining smooth relations between Washington and its biggest foreign creditor were seen as dominating his agenda.

Yet, nine months on, Locke's key role in the recent drama over blind legal activist Chen Guangcheng has put him on the front lines of U.S. concerns about China's embattled dissident community. Chen's sudden escape from house arrest and a U.S. decision to give him sanctuary in the U.S. Embassy gave Locke his first crisis as ambassador, made him a target of criticism from Beijing and earned him respect from the human rights lobby.

"He is setting a new precedent for future U.S. ambassadors" on human rights, said Bob Fu of the Texas-based rights group ChinaAid, who has been in close contact with Chen and the Obama administration over the case.

Chen's fate remains unresolved. Still-evolving arrangements between Washington and Beijing may result in Chen and his family ultimately leaving China for the United States.

On Sunday, Chen, his wife and two children were still inside a Beijing hospital where he is receiving treatment for injuries suffered during his bold escape two weeks ago from his rural farmhouse. U.S. officials spoke by phone to Chen and his wife at the hospital, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said.

Chen had been under illegal house arrest along with his family for 20 months at their rural home, following his release from a four-year prison term imposed after he angered local officials by revealing abuses by family planning officials, including forced abortions.

After traveling to Beijing with the help of rights advocates, Chen contacted the embassy, and Locke sent a car to pick him up. During Chen's anxious six days inside, Locke said he spent up to five hours a day with him, trying to reassure him. After Chen initially decided to remain in China and be reunited with his family at a Beijing hospital, Locke accompanied him and was photographed holding his hand as they entered the hospital.

"We spent a lot of time determining what it is that he wanted," Locke told reporters last week in the thick of the negotiations over Chen.

Though the decision to remain in China was Chen's—and he then reversed himself—Locke has come under intense pressure over the 40-year-old's fate, with some calling him foolish or too trusting for accepting Chinese assurances that Chen would be safe remaining in China.

Rights groups accused Locke and the Obama administration of betraying Chen. Rep. Frank Wolf, a fierce Beijing critic, told a congressional hearing that the U.S. government's handling of the case was "naive," while Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney called letting Chen leave a "dark day for freedom." Locke strongly defended the embassy's actions and said they had been looking at what would be needed to accommodate Chen for a long-term stay.

China's fully state-controlled media launched a coordinated broadside on Friday. The Beijing Daily attacked Locke by name for "boldly and recklessly taking Chen into the embassy in a non-normal way."

"What we have seen in him is not a prudent ambassador to China but a typical American politician who actively stirs up swirls of conflicts," the newspaper said.

Locke has discomfited Beijing and received praise from many Chinese from the day he took up his post last August. A photo of him wearing a backpack and trying to use a coupon to buy coffee at Seattle airport was widely posted on the Chinese Internet along with comments applauding the 62-year-old Yale-educated lawyer's unassuming style.

The contrast with Chinese bureaucrats, who have aides carry their bags and attend to even minor tasks, was stark. Locke's Chinese heritage—his father was a Chinese-born grocer who moved to Seattle—made the contrast all the more stinging.

ASIA BRIEFS

Nepal flood death toll rises to 17; 47 missing

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Police say the death toll has reached 17 from weekend flash flooding in western Nepal. Another 47 people are missing and presumed dead. Police official Shailesh Thapa said rescuers were searching the banks of the Seti River on Monday for the missing people and helping those who had lost their homes and family members. Police say three of those missing are Ukrainian tourists. They identified them as Oleksandr Dubinskiy, Ivan Malaknov and Alla Polonchuk.

Clinton warns against undermining Grameen Bank

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Sunday urged the government of Bangladesh not to do anything that could undermine the effectiveness of the internationally acclaimed Grameen Bank micro-lender. Clinton told a town hall audience in the Bangladeshi capital that the pioneering bank founded by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was a "tremendous" model for the developing world and that its structure should not be tinkered with. A search for a new bank chief is now underway since the government ousted Yunus last year in a heavily criticized step.

US eyes more cuts in India's oil imports from Iran

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will use a two-day visit to India this week to urge further reductions in Indian imports of Iranian oil. A senior official traveling with Clinton in Bangladesh ahead of her arrival in India on Sunday said the matter will be at the top of the secretary's agenda in talks with Indian leaders. India, which has tremendous energy needs to fuel its rapid growth, has made some progress in easing its dependence on Iranian oil, but the official said the U.S. wants to see more.

Tornado near Tokyo kills 1, injures dozens

A man cleans the debris following Sunday's tornado in Tsukuba city, northeast of Tokyo, Monday, May 7, 2012. AP

TOKYO (AP)—A tornado tore through a city northeast of Japan's capital on Sunday, killing one person, injuring dozens of others and destroying scores of houses.

Firefighters and medical teams rushed to the area after the tornado struck Tsukuba city, 60 kilometers (40 miles) from Tokyo. The city is a science center, with dozens of research and academic institutes, but the tornado appeared to mostly hit residential areas.

A 14-year-old boy died after being injured by the storm, Tsukuba Medical Center said.

More than 30 other people were injured, including at least 10 who were being treated at hospitals, fire officials said. Details of the death and injuries were not immediately available.

Public broadcaster NHK showed rows of houses without roofs, apartment complexes with smashed balconies and shattered windows, and tilting telephone poles that could barely stand.

It said about 200 homes were damaged.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said 24,000 homes were without electricity as lightning added to the storm's damage.

Tornadoes are relatively rare in the Tokyo area.

Afghan soldier fires on NATO troops, kills 1

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan soldier killed one U.S. Marine and wounded another before being shot to death in return fire in southern Afghanistan, the latest in a series of attacks against foreigners blamed on government forces working with coalition troops.

Sunday's attack is among nearly 20 this year that have raised the level of mistrust between the U.S.-led coalition and their Afghan partners as NATO gears up to hand over security to local forces ahead of a 2014 deadline for the withdrawal of combat troops.

In another sign of deteriorating security, the United States is considering abandoning plans for a consulate in the country's north because the building chosen was deemed too dangerous to occupy. The U.S. spent $80 million on the project despite glaring security deficiencies in the former hotel, according to a copy of a document drafted by the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

Those problems—including shoddy construction that would lead to a "catastrophic failure" of the building in a car bomb attack—were overlooked and waivers to strict State Department building rules were granted as officials rushed to open the consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif as a sign of America's long-term commitment to Afghanistan, the diplomatic memo shows.

While Mazar-i-Sharif was considered relatively safe when the project was approved in 2009, the memo said, a number of incidents in the city indicate that is no longer the case, including an attack last April on a nearby United Nations compound in which a mob stormed the facility and killed seven foreigners—three workers and their guards.

Winning over the ethnic Tajik and Uzbek minorities who dominate the north, was one of the reasons the U.S. wanted a consulate there. But the site picked was doomed from the start, the embassy documents show.

The compound shared a perimeter wall with local shopkeepers and was surrounded by tall buildings that could be used for an attack, the memo said. The distance between the compound's buildings and the outer wall also was not up to U.S. standards, it added.

In the event of an emergency, there wasn't even enough space to land a single helicopter, so one would have to land on a nearby street, the memo said.

Neighborhood security also was in question. The compound was near a large mosque that is often the center of large protests in the city, and a nearby truck stop and pickup spot for day laborers provided easy cover for surveillance or attack, it said.

The memo, which was first reported in the Washington Post, said the "security vulnerabilities" at the site and increased threats in Mazar-i-Sharif were overwhelming.

"Consequently, establishing a diplomatic presence at the current location is no longer believed to be tenable and the search for an alternative site has been initiated," it said.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Gavin Sundwall declined to comment on the report, saying only that "the security situation has evolved in Afghanistan and any decisions we make are driven by our responsibility to ensure the safety of our personnel."

Persistent violence has threatened to undermine President Barack Obama's effort to show progress in stabilizing Afghanistan at a NATO summit later this month in Chicago. Obama traveled to Afghanistan on May 1 to sign a long-term strategic partnership governing the relationship between the two countries through 2024.

World

France gets new leader, Europe new direction

PARIS (AP)—France handed the presidency Sunday to leftist Francois Hollande, a champion of government stimulus programs who says the state should protect the downtrodden—a victory that could deal a death blow to the drive for austerity that has been the hallmark of Europe in recent years.

Mild and affable, the president-elect inherits a country deep in debt and divided over how to integrate immigrants while preserving its national identity. Markets will closely watch his initial moves as president.

He narrowly defeated the hard-driving, attention-getting Nicolas Sarkozy, an America-friendly leader who led the country through its worst economic troubles since World War II but whose policies and personality proved too bitter for many voters to swallow.

"Austerity can no longer be inevitable!" Hollande declared in his victory speech after a surprising campaign that saw him transform from an unremarkable figure to an increasingly statesmanlike one. He will take office no later than May 16.

Speaking to exuberant crowds, Hollande portrayed himself as a vehicle for change across Europe.

"In all the capitals ... there are people who, thanks to us, are hoping, are looking to us, and want to finish with austerity," he told supporters early Monday at Paris' Place de la Bastille. "You are a movement lifting up everywhere in Europe, and perhaps the world."

Celebrations continued into the night on the iconic plaza of the French Revolution, with revelers waving French, European and labor union flags and climbing the base of its central column. Leftists were overjoyed to have one of their own in power for the first time since Socialist Francois Mitterrand was president from 1981 to 1995.

Sarkozy is the latest victim of a wave of voter anger over spending cuts in Europe that has ousted governments and leaders in the past couple of years.

In Greece, a parliamentary vote Sunday was seen as critical to the country's prospects for pulling out of a deep financial crisis felt in world markets. A state election in Germany and local elections in Italy were seen as tests of support for the national governments' policies.

In France, with 95 percent of the vote counted, official results showed Hollande with 51.6 percent of the vote compared with Sarkozy's 48.4 percent, the Interior Ministry said. The turnout was a strong 81 percent.

"Too many divisions, too many wounds, too many breakdowns and divides have separated our fellow citizens. This is over now," Hollande said in his victory speech, alluding to the divisive Sarkozy presidency. "The foremost duty of the president of the Republic is to unite ... in order to face the challenges that await us."

Those challenges are legion, and begin with Europe's debt crisis.

Hollande has said his first act after the election will be to write a letter to other European leaders calling for a renegotiation of a budget-trimming treaty aimed at bringing the continent's economies closer together. Hollande wants to allow for government-funded stimulus programs in hopes of restarting growth, arguing that debts will only get worse if Europe's economies don't start growing again.

Sarkozy and Germany's Angela Merkel spearheaded the cost-cutting treaty, and many have worried about potential conflict within the Franco-German "couple" that underpins Europe's post-war unity.

Merkel called Hollande to congratulate him on his victory. Hollande has said his first trip would be to Berlin.

President Barack Obama also offered congratulations and an invitation to the White House ahead of this month's summit of the Group of Eight leading economies at Camp David, Md., the White House said. After that, Hollande will attend a NATO summit in Chicago, where he will announce he is pulling French troops out of Afghanistan by the end of the year.

While some market players have worried about a Hollande presidency, Jeffrey Bergstrand, professor of finance at the University of Notre Dame, said it's a good thing that Hollande will push for more spending throughout Europe to stimulate the economy.

Europe is "going into a really serious and poor situation," Bergstrand said. Hollande "is going to become the speaker for those countries that want to do something about economic growth."

Sarkozy conceded defeat minutes after the polls closed, saying he had called Hollande to wish him "good luck" as the country's new leader.

AP

French president-elect Francois Hollande reacts to supporters with his companion Valerie Trierweiler while celebrating his election victory in Bastille Square in Paris, France, Sunday, May 6, 2012.

Sarkozy joins fallen leaders amid Europe crisis

Nicolas Sarkozy, defeated Sunday in France's presidential runoff by Socialist challenger Francois Hollande, joins a series of European leaders booted from office because of public anger over government spending cuts and economic crisis. Almost every crisis-hit European country that has held an election since disaster struck in 2009 has thrown out its leader.

Here's a look at countries where political cadavers litter the landscape.

■ **ITALY:** Silvio Berlusconi, the long-serving leader and survivor of scandals over everything from allegedly bedding escorts to serial corruption, finally bites the dust in November 2011. He resigns to cheers and jeers as investors lose confidence in his ability to spur economic growth and rein in debt. It's the end of a political era. Mario Monti, a former European Commissioner, is named to replace him and lead a technical government until elections in 2013.

■ **GREECE:** Greek Socialist leader George Papandreou swept to power in October 2009 pledging to spend his way out of a deteriorating economic situation. Two years later, at the height of Greece's worst financial crisis since World War II, Papandreou's own deputies force him out after he endangers a hard-won bailout by pledging to put it to a referendum. He's replaced by caretaker Prime Minister Lucas Papademos. On Sunday, Greek voters punish the country's two dominant parties, with projections showing both losing support to anti-bailout groups in parliamentary elections and no party gaining enough ballots to form a government.

■ **SPAIN:** A burst real estate bubble also deflated faith in a Socialist government, which was nonetheless reluctant to acknowledge Spain has problems. Blips of good economic news are seized upon as "green shoots" pointing to recovery. Wrong. Stimulus measures are enacted, then crushing austerity. Unemployment soars. The Socialists of Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero are wiped off the map in November 2011 elections; Mariano Rajoy's conservatives take over.

■ **BRITAIN:** Gordon Brown leads the Labour Party to defeat in the May 2010 election; Conservative Party leader David Cameron becomes leader of a coalition government. Brown had been finance chief for a decade before succeeding Tony Blair in 2007. Brown had boasted endlessly of ending the cycle of boom and bust—but as prime minister he presided mostly over bust.

■ **IRELAND:** Brian Cowen, promoted to prime minister in 2008 after being finance minister, doesn't even get to run. He resigns as leader of the Fianna Fail Party weeks before the February, 2011 election. It doesn't help his party, which suffers its worst ever defeat. Cowen was finance minister during Ireland's banking crisis and the collapse of its housing bubble.

■ **PORTUGAL:** A month after Portugal requests a 78 billion-euro bailout, the center-left Socialist government of Jose Socrates is voted out of power in June, 2011. Portugal's woes stemmed from a decade of feeble growth as it failed to modernize amid increasing global competition and dug itself deeper into debt.

■ **DENMARK:** A center-right government in Denmark loses power in September in part due to discontent over austerity measures introduced amid the debt crisis. It is replaced by a center-left coalition.

■ **FINLAND:** Finland's government is reconfigured after June elections following a sharp surge in support for nationalists who oppose bailouts for debt-stricken eurozone countries. A conservative-led coalition spanning left and right is formed to keep the nationalist True Finns out of power.

AP

This combination of Associated Press file photos shows, from top left, former Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, former Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi, former Portugal interim Prime Minister and Socialist Party leader Jose Socrates, former Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen, former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, former Spain Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, and Chairman Timo Soini of the True Finns.

Angry Greeks redraw election map

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Furious Greeks punished the two parties that have dominated politics for decades in the crisis-battered country Sunday, leaving its multibillion dollar international bailout—and even its future in the euro currency—hanging in the balance.

With more than 83 percent of the vote counted, Greece appeared to be heading toward political stalemate. Nobody won enough votes to form a government, and the two parties that backed the bailout—the conservative New Democracy and socialist PASOK—conceded they need to win over adversaries to form a viable coalition.

"I understand the rage of the people, but our party will not leave Greece ungoverned," said New Democracy leader Antonis Samaras.

New Democracy was leading with nearly 20 percent of the vote, which would give it 110 seats in the 300-member parliament. PASOK, which has spent 21 years in government since 1981 and stormed to victory with more than 43 percent in 2009, saw its support slashed to about 13.5 percent. It will have just 41 seats, compared to 160 in the last election.

The two parties saw their support plummet to the lowest level since 1974, when Greece emerged from a seven-year dictatorship. The outcome showed widespread public anger at the harsh austerity measures imposed over the past two years in return for rescue loans from other European Union countries and the International Monetary Fund. Without the funds, Greece faced a disastrous default that could have dragged down other financially troubled European countries and seen it leave the euro.

Voters who deserted the two mainstays of Greek politics in droves headed to a cluster of smaller parties on both the left and right, including the extremist Golden Dawn, which rejects the neo-Nazi label and insists it is nationalist patriotic. The movement has been blamed for violent attacks on immigrants and ran on an anti-immigrant platform, vowing to "clean up" Greece and calling for land mines to be planted along the country's borders. The party looked set to win about 7 percent of the vote, giving it 21 deputies in parliament—a stunning rise for a group that earned just 0.29 percent of the vote in 2009.

Sunday's other big winner was Alexis Tsipras, the 38-year-old leader of the Radical Left Coalition, or Syriza, who saw his party poised for an unprecedented second place with 16.4 percent and 51 seats—the first time in nearly 40 years that any party other than New Democracy or PASOK has held the spot.

Turnout stood at just over 64 percent—a low figure for the country, where voting is officially compulsory, although no sanctions are applied for not casting a ballot.

Negotiations are expected to begin Monday to form a coalition. As first party, Samaras will get three days to seek partners. If he fails the mandate will go to the second party for a further three days, and then to the third party. If no agreement can be reached, the country heads to new elections.

Focus

Barbie helps long-hidden Indonesian sisters shine

MOUNT BATUR, Indonesia (AP)—Putu Restiti and her little sister, Alit, have felt invisible most of their lives, hidden in a run-down shack because they were born with twisted limbs some believe were caused by evil spirits.

AP

In this April 22, 2012 photo, sisters Alit Astini, right, and Putu Restiti, rear center, display Barbie dolls at their house in Songan village, Kintamani, Bali, Indonesia.

They were kept out of school and had no friends. But like children everywhere, they had powerful imaginations. After being given a Barbie doll, they started stitching tiny, intricate outfits for her from their mother's sewing scraps. And in doing so, they created a new world for themselves.

Word of their beautiful and delicate designs spread. They were displayed for sale in Bali's top tourist area and neighborhood kids started visiting, first to watch and then to request their own.

"She's beautiful, isn't she?" 21-year-old Putu says to Alit after adding a final stitch to a traditional batik gown, pulling it over Barbie's golden locks and then tightening a clasp around the iconic doll's petite waist and high bust.

"Yes," the pigtailed 11-year-old whispers. "So sexy."

Indonesia's resort island of Bali—with its white-sand beaches, five-star hotels and throbbing nightclubs—attracts millions of tourists every year. They include everyone from Paris Hilton (who gushed to fans during a recent visit that she'd finally found "paradise") to backpackers and surfers. And with her starring role in "Eat, Pray, Love," Julia Roberts helped bring a different pilgrim to the "Island of the Gods": spiritual seekers.

But there is a dark side as well for children like Putu and Alit, neither of whom can stand nor walk because of problems that occurred during breech births.

Unlike the rest of the sprawling archipelagic nation, which is predominantly Muslim, most Balinese are Hindu. Their unique form of the faith stresses worshipping of ancestors—and a belief that prosperity can only be achieved with the blessings of dead relatives.

Those with deformities are said to embody the "bad" spirits of those who have lived before. An embarrassment to families, some are locked away. In the most extreme cases, they're abandoned, left to fend for themselves.

That's what led to the search for Putu two years ago.

Sakti Soediro, a volunteer with a health foundation that helps disabled youths, was looking through a midwife's files describing a breech birth nearly two decades ago in which the baby was born feet first and the mother nearly lost her life.

After the difficult delivery, the girl disappeared without a trace. She'd never gone to school or visited health clinics or hospitals, so no records of her were on file anywhere.

"We were determined to find out what happened," said Soediro, who looked for a month, first going door-to-door in villages dotting Bali's stunning coasts, and then venturing deep into the island's interior, where many still live in abject poverty.

After navigating a windy, dirt road that climbed the long-dormant Mount Batur volcano, she reached the rice-farming community of Songan.

There, in a concrete shack at the end of an alley, Jero Widiani, a seamstress abandoned by her husband years earlier, was struggling to raise five daughters on her own.

AP

In this April 22, 2012 photo, Alit Astini displays Barbie dolls as she sits on a wheel chair outside her house in Songan village, Kintamani, Bali, Indonesia.

Three were healthy. Neighbors were not even aware of the two others.

Putu, the eldest, was sitting on the ground, her severely distorted legs folded beneath her as she sewed together scraps of material.

Alit, huddled beside her, was even worse off.

No bigger than a toddler, the little girl has a ribcage pressed tightly against her lungs, making it difficult to breathe, much less speak. She has no mobility in her legs and use, only, of her left arm.

Soediro came back a few days later with some Barbie dolls. When she returned a third time, the girls showed her a stack of miniature dresses, sarongs and shirts.

One had been fitted, beautifully, on the Barbie.

"It was amazing!" said Soediro, who has helped the girls sell the dresses in shops and occasionally at exhibitions for $2 to $4 a piece—bringing in up to $70 a month, enough to help feed the family.

Neighborhood kids pay just 5 cents, but the interaction after years of isolation is priceless.

"They just want to be our friends," Putu says with a smile, as girls run in and out of the living room, others lingering curiously in the doorway. "And that's what we want, too."

"I feel happy now," she says, watching her mother scoop Alit in her arms and carry her to the toilet. "I'm more excited now to live."

As word spread, even Western tourists have been known to make the four-hour trip from the capital, Denpasar.

"They are inspiring," said Stephanie Crowe, taking a seat on the floor beside the girls and picking up tiny dresses, admiring their fine handiwork.

They don't have much, the Australian said, but they are surrounded, now, by friends and family.

"We Westerners," she said, "are all about looking out for ourselves and saving money so we can buy more things. We don't always realize the important thing in a life is our relationships, people, and what you can do to make someone else happy."

Putu, whose health is much better than her sister's, designs all the clothes and does most of the sewing. Alit helps when she feels strong enough, but this week the little girl was rushed to the hospital, where she is suffering from respiratory problems and a leaky heart valve.

Of the dozen Barbies and one Ken the girls have collected over the last two years, some of them knock-offs, all of them gifts, Alit has her favorite: a blonde-haired girl whom she has yet to rename.

She gently washes and conditions the doll's hair every day and then applies perfume and powder.

Though the family lives with next to nothing—there are no beds, cabinets, or even chairs—the sisters have created a miniature palace out of boxes for their Barbies.

They have used cardboard to make furniture. Tiny blankets stitched by hand are spread across the beds. And the walls have been decorated with brightly colored gift wrap.

"To me, Barbie is a princess," Putu says, shrugging off criticism that the Mattel dolls promote an unrealistic ideal about the feminine body.

"And for her," she says, smiling over at Alit, "they are beautiful fairies."

Overdrive

How Hyundai went from joke to contender in US

USA TODAY/MCT

John Krafcik, CEO of Hyundai Motor America, poses for portrait August 17, 2010, in Fountain Valley, California, with the company's newest luxury car, the full-size Equus, one of the hottest properties in the auto industry. Krafcik has guided Hyundai from No. 9 in U.S. sales in 2007 to seventh among individual brands through July this year.

NEW YORK (AP)— Americans were laughing at Hyundai's cars when John Krafcik joined the company eight years ago.

The cars were ugly and often broke down. The only reason to buy one was because it was cheap. Jay Leno once joked that you could double a Hyundai's value by filling it up with gas.

No one's laughing now.

The Korean automaker's quality has improved, and it's among the leaders in fuel efficiency and styling. Sales are up more than 60 percent since 2008, the year Krafcik became CEO of American operations. Hyundai's Elantra compacts and Sonata midsize sedans are in such demand that few discounts are offered. And although the company's U.S. sales are just a fraction of General Motors' or Ford's, they're growing so quickly that Hyundai is feared by every other carmaker.

Hyundai had already started to change before Krafcik arrived, offering a 10-year, 100,000 mile warranty with its cars. But the transformation from joke to juggernaut accelerated under his watch.

Krafcik, 50, is a Stanford-trained engineer and manufacturing expert. He began his career as a manufacturing engineer at a General Motors-Toyota joint venture factory set up so GM could learn how Toyota made cars. While working for the venture in the early 1980s, he saw the gap in standards between Japanese and American plants. He has focused on quality ever since.

Despite Hyundai's turnaround, Krafcik still worries about quality.

"It only takes one small mistake with a critical part in a safety-related system to derail all of the good work that we've done," he says.

Krafcik, who often wears open-collar shirts, sport coats and jeans, recently spoke with The Associated Press in New York. He talked about his management style, cup holders and the success of his company, which has its American headquarters in Costa Mesa, Calif. Here are excerpts, edited for clarity and style:

Q: Your company has made a remarkable turnaround since the early 1990s when it sold inexpensive cars that fell apart. How did you make the transformation?

A: First you had to build that foundation of quality and consumer trust. By the time we got to the late '90s, we knew that our quality was good. We knew our reputation was horrible. And the America's Best Warranty, that 10-year, 100,000-mile powertrain warranty, ended up being huge. We were able to take ourselves from about 90,000 units (cars and trucks) per year at the absolute pits of our sales—this was in the late 90s—to 300,000 and 400,000 within four or five years.

Q: That was a bet-the-company move?

A: It was an absolute bet-the-company move. If we had gotten that one wrong, then the company would have failed. And rather quickly, too, as the warranty expense and exposure are significant when you're taking a bath that big.

Q: Hyundai has pushed the envelope in its car designs, and other companies are just now catching up with the Elantra and Sonata. How did you pull that off?

A: It just takes courage and a willingness to take risks. So with Sonata, the conventional orthodoxy in the industry was midsize cars should be styled conservatively. This is typical market research talking. We know this because we talk to our midsize car buyers all the time. Here's what they say: 'Safety. Quality. I want a good value and a fair price.' And about number seven or eight on the pecking order is design. From that mentality has come the point of view that midsize cars should look like (Toyota) Camrys and (Honda) Accords and (Chevrolet) Malibus.

Q: Why would you take a risk on design when it was conventional wisdom not to?

A: Products starting with the '05 Tucson and the '06 Sonata were designed in a safe and conservative manner. It didn't move the needle in terms of sales. You go through that and you finally see the pattern. You can't just accept safe. So now when we do our research, we categorize people before they come (in) as either conservative or progressive in their design thought. And we can then weight the results. It gives more weight to what we call design progressives.

Q: What else happens in your market research?

A: We'll send a couple of product planners and market researchers out with consumers and just literally spend a day or two with them, looking at their cars. Seeing how they live their lives around their cars. When they go to Costco, where do they put those big, huge things of toilet paper? It gives us insights. We're trying to find what we call unmet needs.

Q: What are Americans looking for in cars now?

A: Fuel economy is definitely on their mind. It's huge. As fuel prices go up, interest in the compact car segment goes up. So compact cars now are selling very, very well. Fuel-efficient cars are selling very, very well. We're seeing more discretionary car purchases now. More car purchases that aren't driven specifically because my car is old or my car is fuel inefficient.

Q: What's something that has surprised you about how people use their cars?

A: The car as personal living space. It's amazing how much stuff people carry around. Finding room for people's stuff is one of our priority focal points. Let me give you a great example. Cup holders and bottle holders. This is a great success for Hyundai, and it took some time to convince the engineers that this is what we needed to do (because) cup holders cost money. If you're going to do them right, they have little gripper fingers and you have to make more expensive molds and stuff. Engineers never understand why a driver would need two cup holders and the front seat passenger would also need two cup holders.

Q: What could derail your sales growth?

A: It only takes one small mistake with a critical part in a safety-related system to derail all of the good work that we're done. So we're being so careful and cautious, putting in quality operating systems and insuring that everything is working with them. We need to get to this point of tier-one quality in everything we do. But we're not there yet.

Q: What in Detroit's corporate cultures caused them to get into trouble and what did you learn from being there?

A: Hyundai's culture is something refreshing. This idea that bold targets drive great things. (It) just stretches your boundaries, your mind and your team in ways that you wouldn't otherwise have stretched and achieved. Working at GM, Toyota, and Ford, the approach was more focused on, 'Let's set targets that we're fairly confident of being able to get to." That's OK, but the outlook is decidedly less optimistic in a company like that.

Q: How would you describe your management style?

A: My job is to set some aspirational targets and continually communicate those targets. I believe in repetition of message.

Q: Is the auto industry becoming cool to work for again?

A: I would say so. There's no industry cooler, no industry more complicated and more important to industrial economies. It's always been a sore point for me that the industry has had a bit of a black eye. That people would think of us as not being quick on our feet, and not being responsive to consumer needs. And maybe, honestly, some of that has been true. But what we've been through in the last couple of years has gotten rid of a lot of old bad habits. I see the industry now stronger, more vibrant than it's ever been. I do see us recruiting a lot of really smart people.

Q: Who are your mentors?

A: Maybe the most influential guy was a fellow named Yoshimitsu Ogihara. He was a Toyota guy. He would teach like this: He would say 'OK, John-san. I want to send you to Oklahoma City GM plant. You go there. Make one-page, Toyota-style report. And come back.' And I'd say, 'OK, Ogihara-san. What do you want me to look for?'

'You will see.'

So I go there. It was this big place. Huge piles of inventory in cardboard boxes. People sleeping in those cardboard boxes. Massive parking lots filled with cars with parts missing. And the windshield wiper in the up position, which I later learned meant this car needed to be repaired. Every car in that huge lot, thousands of them, had their windshield wiper up. I remember writing this one-page report, just kind of detailing what I saw.

I said, 'What do you think?' He said, 'OK. Now I need to send you to Toyota City.' (the Corolla factory)

It was amazing. You could see from one end of the plant to the other. Every bit of floor space had a visual indication of what it was for. The workers were working, but not crazy hard. No one was sleeping in cardboard boxes. I came back and wrote this one-page report. This was 1984, and no one really knew at the time that there was this big, huge difference between the way one company built cars and another company built cars. And I was a 23-year-old kid and I suddenly knew. So I worked there another couple years under Ogihara-san. He taught me so much but never through saying it.

Q: What was so effective about that approach?

A: You owned it. You just discovered it with your own eyes.

Q: How do you use that in management today?

A: I like to leave a cookie trail to the right answer. I find sometimes you can bring a horse to water but you can't always get it to drink. But I don't like to say, 'Look, this is how we should do it.' I like to provide some approach that helps the team that's thinking about the problem get to that answer. And when they get there, I might say something like, 'That's terrific. I was hoping you'd end up there. What a great solution.' It's hard, though, when the team doesn't get to where you want it go to. And then you have a difficult decision to make. Do you enforce your will or do you let the team learn from their approach?

Life & Style

"Crab" chips, fruity Oreos? They're big overseas

By CANDICE CHOI
AP FOOD INDUSTRY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Russians prefer their Lay's potato chips dusted in caviar and crab flavors. The Chinese like their Oreos stuffed with mango and orange cream. And in Spain, Kellogg's All-Bran cereal is served floating in hot coffee instead of cold milk.

Americans might get squeamish at the thought of their favorite snacks being tweaked. But what works in the U.S. doesn't always work everywhere.

In other words, Lee Linthicum, a market researcher, says: "It can't be some generic mix of spices that might fool an American."

Food makers long have tinkered with their products to appeal to regional tastes, but getting the recipe just right is becoming more important than ever. That's partly because people in emerging nations such as China and India are gaining more of an appetite for American-style "on-the-go" foods as they work longer hours and have less time to cook. But it's mostly because snack makers increasingly are looking for growth in other parts of the world as sales slow in the U.S.

Growth in the snack food industry has been virtually flat in the U.S. for the past two years, according to market research firm Euromonitor. Meanwhile, combined sales in China, Brazil and Russia—three major developing markets—rose 15 percent in 2010 and 11 percent last year to $17 billion. That's half the size of the U.S. market but it's growing.

Snacks in a different land

The challenge for snack makers is that people in other countries have different tastes. Consider the Oreo, which Kraft Food Inc. introduced in China in 1996. Sales of the vanilla cream-filled chocolate cookie sandwich were respectable there, but the Chinese didn't completely take to it.

So Kraft decided to tweak the Oreo. But executives of the Northfield, Illinois-based company knew that they had to proceed with caution. "When you have a brand that's 100 years old, you don't mess with the recipe thoughtlessly," says Lorna Davis, head of the company's global biscuit and cookies business.

In 2006, Kraft began offering the Oreo as a wafer, a popular cookie throughout Asia. It is made up of cream sandwiched between crispy wafers. The plan was to help familiarize more Chinese customers with the brand. Three years later, the company decided to go a step further.

AP
This March 14, 2012, photo shows a package of Lays caviar potato chips in New York.

Kraft worked with a panel of consumer taste experts from around the world to identify the characteristics of the Oreo—including color, crunchiness, bitterness, color—that were likely to appeal to Chinese tastes. Executives learned through research that the Chinese don't like their treats as big or as sweet as Americans do. So the company rejiggered the recipe to create a cookie that was a tad smaller and a touch less sweet.

To test the new recipe, hundreds of Chinese consumers tasted the new Oreo. It was a hit. "It made us realize the smallest of details make a big difference," Davis says.

But the company wasn't finished. After noticing sales of Oreos were lagging in China during the summer, Kraft added a green tea ice cream flavor. The cookie combined a popular local flavor with the cooling imagery of ice cream. The green tea version sold well, and a year later, Kraft rolled out Oreos in flavors that are popular in Asians desserts—raspberry-and-blueberry and mango-and-orange.

The result? Over the past five years, Kraft said sales have grown an average of 60 percent a year, although it declined to give revenue amounts. The Oreo now is the top-selling cookie in China with a market share of 13 percent. The previous top cookie was a biscuit by a Chinese company.

Erin Brockovich returns to the big screen

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Erin Brockovich has long been a champion for clean water. Her efforts to sue Pacific Gas & Electric for polluting the water supply of a California town were adapted into a big-screen story, "Erin Brockovich," starring Julia Roberts in the Oscar-winning title role.

The real Brockovich is back on the big screen in the new documentary "Last Call at the Oasis," which opened in New York and Los Angeles on Friday and will spread to other cities throughout the month. The 51-year-old activist is among various environmental experts cited in the 100-minute film, which explores challenges related to the planet's dwindling and increasingly polluted water supply.

The film shows Brockovich visiting a community in Midland, Texas, where water comes out of the tap bright green.

She took time out during her cross-country travels to talk with The Associated Press about the future of the world's water supply.

AP: How did you come to be a part of this documentary?

Brockovich: It seems me and films just kind of by fluke run into each other.... I was happy to be involved because as a foot soldier on the ground and zigzagging across the United States, I can clearly see, from a pollution standpoint, that we have a water problem.

AP: It's been more than a decade since your namesake film came out, and almost two decades since you brought your case against PG&E, so why don't these water issues get more attention?

AP
In a Friday, September 15, 2000 photo, Erin Brockovich listens to a presentation to the Los Angeles City Council by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, in Los Angeles.

Brockovich: I think that there's complacency and apathy throughout our country, and we think the EPA is going to come and save our butts on these types of problems, and they're very absent for a whole host of reasons. We have been completely failed. Then a film comes out or there's some convergence and people realize: "Oh (expletive), this is in my backyard." The issue is more relevant and more daunting today than when I began my work in 1991.

AP: Why is that?

Brockovich: We're using water quantities that exceed the capacity for it to renew itself.... But for me, the biggest concern is why the EPA and these other agencies that were put in place for oversight haven't cleaned it up? All this contamination still sits in the ground, that could have been cleaned up 20 years ago, that could have prevented an aquifer from being destroyed, that could have prevented another community from coming down with disease, and we've done nothing. I find it frustrating. I'm very perplexed. We've become comfortable with pointing the blame at somebody else, then they point it back at that person and the issue gets forgotten, and then things never get cleaned up.

AP: What can everyday folks do about this problem?

Brockovich: Don't get so complacent that you think someone else has got your back. We need to get back to our communities and each other and begin to be our own heroes and rescue ourselves. Get involved. Be aware. Respect the earth that has made us and sustained us all along, which is your greatest investment, as it is Exxon's. Speak up, speak out and take back what is rightfully all of ours and your right and your child's right: Clean water, a good environment and good health.

Is the Vogue vow more hype than health?

NEW YORK (AP)—Lip service or sea change? Skeptics wonder whether Vogue magazine's vow to ban models under 16 or those of any age with visible signs of eating disorders is more hype than health.

The 19 editors of Vogue around the world made the promise Thursday, beginning with June issues and including editions in America, France, Britan and China. They also encouraged fashion designers to reconsider "unrealistically" small sample sizes that make ultra-thin models necessary in the first place.

Vogue didn't address the widespread industry practice of digitally altering photos that critics believe promotes an impossible standard of beauty.

While the new initiatives are certainly good news for models, Susan Linn of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood said Vogue didn't go far enough.

"If Vogue was really concerned about the well being of girls in terms of their health, then they would have done what Spain and Italy did and use only girls who have what has been deemed a healthy Body Mass Index."

The health of models, especially their weight, has been in the spotlight over the past few years, especially after the death of two models from apparent complications from eating disorders in 2006 and 2007, but the focus, until now, has been on runway fashion shows.

The primary fashion organizations in Italy and Spain banned catwalk models who fall below a certain BMI level. Israel's government passed an anti-skinny-model law earlier this year.

The Council of Fashion Designers of America adopted a voluntary initiative in 2007 emphasizing age minimums and healthy working environments during New York Fashion Week. London Fashion Week designers signed a contract with the British Fashion Council to use models who are at least 16.

Anna Wintour, Vogue's U.S. editor-in-chief, was instrumental in crafting the CFDA's guidelines.

Still, there is persistent criticism that the fashion world creates a largely unattainable and unhealthy standard that particularly affects impressionable young girls.

Audrey Brashich, a former teen model and ex-editor of a teen magazine, called the Vogue announcement a "tiny baby step of progress," at best.

"The cynic in me feels like they are simply grandstanding while really just throwing a bone to an audience that is getting ever more savvy and tired of the tricks of the trade," she said.

Linn agreed, adding: "It's not going to help the millions of young girls who turn to these magazines to decide what they should aspire to look like."

Conde Nast publishes other magazines, including Glamour and Allure, but a spokeswoman said there are no current plans for these guidelines to be adopted across the company.

Glamour said in a statement Friday the magazine's policy already was not to book models under 16 or those who appear to have an eating disorder.

The Hearst Corp., home to Elle, Harper's Bizarre and Marie Claire, said in a statement that it supports the CFDA guidelines, adding:

"Good health is something we strive to promote in our magazines, both in our fashion and beauty stories and in our features. We make every effort to educate our readers and present images that reflect strong, beautiful women."

Elissa J. Brown, professor of psychology at St. John University and founder of The Partners Program, a specialized therapy program for children and adolescents, said she was cautiously optimistic about Vogue's attempt to prioritize health over weight.

"I don't think the shift will come in the next couple of weeks, and I don't think the shift will come unless the entire industry participates," she said. "I would like to see what comes next."

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Marvel's The Avengers

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Marvel Studios delivers the ultimate comic-book production, tying such characters as Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) together for a big-screen franchise team-up like no other. Show runner Joss Whedon (Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Firefly) adapts and helms the script by Zak Penn, with a supporting cast that includes Samuel L. Jackson and Jeremy Renner.

Pirates! Band of Misfits

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Hugh Grant, Brendan Gleeson
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Set sail for fun with this family-friendly Aardman Animations adventure following a bumbling, abundantly bearded scallywag who competes against his two biggest rivals for the title Pirate of the Year. Try as he might, the Pirate Captain (Hugh Grant) just can't be taken seriously as a plunderer. But that might change if he could only manage to win the Pirate of the Year competition. As the event gets under way, the Pirate Captain makes it his mission to leave dreaded foes Black Bellamy (Jeremy Piven) and Cutlass Liz (Salma Hayek) sinking in his wake.

★ ★ ★

Safe

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Jason Statham, Catherine Chan
Crime • Rated R

The Five Year Engagement

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Jason Segel, Emily Blunt
Comedy • Rated R

The Lucky One

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling
Drama • Rated PG 13

Three Stooges

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Will Sasso, Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos
Comedy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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'Avengers' smashes record: $200.3M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hulk, smash.

That's what Captain America tells the Incredible Hulk to do in "The Avengers," and that's what the Marvel Comics superhero mash-up did at the box office, smashing the domestic revenue record with a $200.3 million debut.

It's by far the biggest opening ever, shooting past the previous record of $169.2 million for the debut of last year's "Harry Potter" finale.

"The Avengers" added $151.5 million overseas over the weekend to bring its total to $441.5 million since it began opening internationally a week earlier.

That raised the film's worldwide haul to $641.8 million in barely a week and a half, more than its Marvel superhero forerunners "Iron Man," "Iron Man 2," "Thor" and "Captain America" took in during their entire runs.

If distributor Disney's domestic estimate Sunday holds when the final weekend count is released Monday, "The Avengers" would be the first movie ever to haul in $200 million in a single weekend.

While the number could dip below $200 million come Monday, Disney spent the weekend revising its forecasts upward as business kept growing.

"There aren't even words, to be honest. I'm running low on double takes. Every time we looked at a number, it just got bigger than what we could have hoped for in the best-case assumption," said Dave Hollis, Disney's head of distribution. "With this film, this weekend, anything is possible."

AP

In this film image released by Disney, Chris Evans, portraying Captain America, left, and Robert Downey Jr., portraying Tony Stark, are shown in a scene from "Marvel's The Avengers."

"The Avengers" started with solid midnight crowds Friday, though nowhere near a record. Then it did $80.5 million for the full day Friday, second only to the "Harry Potter" finale's $91.1 million first day.

Revenues held up much better than expected with $69.7 million Saturday, and Disney estimated that the film would bring in $50.1 million more on Sunday.

Hollywood launched a potentially record-shattering summer with a vengeance, "The Avengers" landing as just the first of three huge superhero tales that highlight a lineup filled with other blockbusters in the making.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" follows on July 3 and "The Dark Knight Rises" wraps up the current Batman series on July 20.

Along with the superhero films, Hollywood's summer lineup includes the action tales "Men in Black 3," "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," "Battleship," "Total Recall" and "Prometheus," director Ridley Scott's return to the sci-fi territory of his horror hit "Alien."

Big family fare includes the animated adventures "Brave," from "Toy Story" creator Pixar Animation, and the sequels "Ice Age: Continental Drift" and "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. ***"The Avengers,"*** $200.3 million ($151.5 million international).
2. ***"Think Like a Man,"*** $8 million.
3. ***"The Hunger Games,"*** $5.7 million ($4.3 million international).
4. ***"The Lucky One,"*** $5.5 million ($5.5 million international).
5. ***"The Pirates! Band of Misfits,"*** $5.4 million ($2.6 million international).
6. ***"The Five-Year Engagement,"*** $5.1 million ($2.3 million international).
7. ***"The Raven,"*** $2.5 million.
8. ***"Safe,"*** $2.47 million ($2.2 million international).
9. ***"Chimpanzee,"*** $2.4 million.
10. ***"The Three Stooges,"*** $1.8 million.

Johansson ready to play Black Widow again

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scarlett Johansson is deep in Alfred Hitchcock's world now, playing Janet Leigh opposite Anthony Hopkins' Hitchcock in the late filmmaker's biopic, but she's ready to put on her Black Widow super suit should Marvel call again.

The 27-year-old actress is the lone female in a crew of six superheros fighting to save humanity in "The Avengers," which opened Friday in North America amid speculation that it could break the box office record for an opening weekend.

Where Thor (Chris Hemsworth) has a cape and hammer and Captain America (Chris Evans) has his spangled suit and shield, Johansson thought her "Avengers" costume was lackluster until she acknowledged its benefits.

Johansson

"I thought I drew the short end because I was complaining about the fact that I wear this latex catsuit and how uncomfortably hot it is and all of that, and then I look around and think, 'You know, I had it pretty good.' Chris Hemsworth actually has a cooling system attached to his costume," she said. "We spent a lot of time comparing and contrasting the pluses and minuses of our superhero suits."

Though she spent months training to perform in her costume, Johansson said she'd wear it again in a second to tell the story of Black Widow.

"I love her origin story. I think it's just such a riveting one," she said. "It's just steeped in history and the richness to shoot in Russia, perhaps. ... I hope that the fans' voice is loud enough and they want to see a Widow origin story, I know Marvel would be happy to entertain that. We've spoken a lot about it."

Johansson's Black Widow (aka Natasha Romanoff) first appeared in the second Iron Man film. In "The Avengers," viewers learn more about her relationship to peacekeeping agency S.H.I.E.L.D.

"You see a little bit about how Natasha joined, and it's not that she's fighting for the greater good of humanity," the actress said.

UK publisher to release Taliban poetry anthology

LONDON (AP)—A group of researchers are preparing to release an anthology of Taliban poetry, something they hope will help English-speakers better understand the men who've waged more than a decade of war against NATO-led forces in Afghanistan.

Many of the works in "Poetry of the Taliban" center on the movement's campaign to expel foreign forces from their territory, with angry battle anthems or mournful dirges devoted to civilian casualties. But others touch on themes of religious devotion, nostalgia, or even love.

Alex Strick van Linschoten, one of the anthology's coeditors, said he had collected the 240-odd poems off the Internet and in the field—not for novelty's sake, "but as a way of understanding who the Taliban are."

"This is one of the big problems of the conflict, which is one of making decisions without properly understanding the circumstances of the people around which these decisions are being made."

Although the Taliban's Web presence is closely monitored, few people showed much interest in the group's poetry. Strick van Linschoten suggested that was a mistake.

"The only way you're going to understand who the Taliban are is reading and understanding what they have to say," he said.

The poems cited in the book's forward run the gamut. There's an ode to the guerrilla fighter:

"I know the black ditches/I always carry a rocket launcher on my shoulder;

"I know the hot trenches/I always ambush the enemy;

"I know war, conflict, and disputes/I will tell the truth even if I am hung on the gallows ..."

But there's also a cry for peace:

"End cruelty so that,

"An ant won't die by someone's hand ..."

And moments of introspection and self-doubt:

"It's a pity that we are wandering as vagrants,

"We did this all to ourselves."

Jolie 'proud' to be honorary Sarajevo citizen

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—Angelina Jolie says she is grateful and proud to have officially been named an honorary citizen of Sarajevo and that she will visit the city this summer to personally express her gratitude.

The city held a ceremony to bestow the honor upon Jolie on Thursday. In an audio message played during the event at the National Theater, Jolie said she was "proud to now be a part of such an extraordinary part of the world and fellow citizen to the people I deeply love and admire."

The city decided to honor the actress for her role in preserving the "truth about the war" in Bosnia through her directorial debut "In the Land of Blood and Honey."

Jolie was invited to attend the ceremony Thursday but said in her message she will be able to come in July.

AP

In a photo provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie, second from right, meets with Plinio, right, in Providencia, Ecuador Sunday April 22, 2012.

Buffett pokes fun at himself at annual meeting

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP)—Billionaire Warren Buffett's secretary got to attend President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech in January because of Buffett's complaints that tax laws are too easy on wealthy investors.

At Saturday's Berkshire Hathaway meeting, Buffett joked about the fame Debbie Bosanek gained because he says she pays a higher tax rate than he does.

In a video skit, Bosanek started ignoring calls into the Berkshire office. That forced Buffett to start picking up the phone only to find that the callers wanted to reach Bosanek.

Oprah Winfrey, Obama and CNBC all wanted to talk to Bosanek instead of Buffett. Obama even told Buffett that his tax reform proposal might have a better chance of passing if it were renamed the "Bosanek Rule" instead of the "Buffett Rule."

AP

In this Feb. 15, 2010, file photo President Barack Obama congratulates Warren Buffett after presenting him with a 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom in an East Room ceremony at the White House in Washington.

Even Buffett's partner, Berkshire Vice Chairman Charlie Munger, called to run an investment idea past Bosanek instead of Buffett.

Later in the meeting, when Buffett was questioned about his recent prostate cancer diagnosis he joked that the reason he disclosed the illness last month was to distract attention away from Bosanek.

The movie also featured a skit where Buffett tried out to join the glee club by performing on his ukulele with the cast of the TV show "Glee." Actress Jane Lynch joked that Buffett was her character's past lover from the days when the character coached cheerleading at the University of Nebraska.

In another skit in the movie, Buffett sought out the advice of Jimmy Buffett as a therapist for his ukulele playing. But Jimmy Buffett seemed bored during the session and played video games on an iPad while Warren Buffett talked.

Miss America, Miranda Lambert at Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)—The horses and roses weren't the only famous attractions at the 138th Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

A large crowd got peeks at the stable of famous people who walked the red carpet into the historic racetrack on Saturday. Among them were country singers Eddy Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry, Miranda Lambert, Travis Tritt, Clay Walker and Randy Owen.

Lambert

Montgomery would not reveal his Derby bet. "If I tell that, it's going to be everybody's favorite," he said.

From the sports world, the lineup included New England Patriots football coach Bill Belichick, Kentucky basketball players including standout Anthony Davis, Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino, tennis players Andre Agassi and his wife, Steffi Graf, World Cup skier Lindsey Vonn, and Tennessee Titans defense end Kamerion Wimbley.

Singers included Cyndi Lauper with her two sons, Mary J. Blige, Taylor Dane and Mary Wilson of The Supremes. And from Hollywood, there were Debra Messing, Lynda Carter, Quinton Aaron, Ginnifer Goodwin, Kellan Lutz, Ice-T and comedians Fred Willard and Ron White.

Miss America Laura Kaeppler also arrived as well as actor Terry O'Quinn, noted for his role as "John Locke" in the television series "Lost."

When asked which horse he would bet on, O'Quinn replied with a question: "You tell me?"

Muti to conduct Vivaldi, Verdi concert for Pope

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Riccardo Muti will be conducting a concert in the Vatican in honor of Pope Benedict XVI.

He's the second big-name maestro to be conducting for the pope this spring. La Scala opera house announced last week that Daniel Barenboim would conduct Beethoven's Ninth symphony when the pope visits Milan on June 1.

According to a statement on his website Sunday, Muti will lead Rome's Teatro dell'Opera in selections from Vivaldi and Verdi in the May 11 concert, which is being offered to the pope by Italy's president in honor of the seventh anniversary of his election to the pontificate.

Benedict is a classical music aficionado and himself plays the piano.

It's not the first time Muti will conduct for a pope: He conducted selections of Verdi in 1983 when Pope John Paul II became the first pontiff to attend a performance at La Scala.

Muti left La Scala in 2005 amid bitter controversy over artistic and programming differences and is currently music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Cee Lo Green says he's sticking with 'The Voice'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cee Lo Green says he'll stick with "The Voice" singing competition show "as long as it's fresh."

The rapper turned singer joined the show last year as coach and judge alongside Christina Aguilera, Blake Shelton and Adam Levine.

Green, 37, said in an interview this week that he believes NBC has plans in place should any of the judges decide to leave. But for now he's happy to continue "building the brand of Cee Lo Green" on the popular TV series, which ends its second season next week.

Aguilera's appearance on Maroon 5's hit "Moves Like Jagger" has led to further musical collaboration among the singers. Green said he'd be open to a supergroup featuring all four: "Why not? ... Everybody's talented. Everybody's available and highly enthusiastic."

Boyfriend's cheating heart leaves an electronic trail

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend "Paul" for four years. We have a child together, and we each have a child of our own. We have lived together for three years, and our family life is great. However, when I was pregnant with our son, Paul contacted an ex on a social network. One day he left his computer open, and I saw that their conversations were less than innocent. I was upset and I said something immediately.

We have stayed together, but ever since then I'm having a hard time trusting Paul. Because he had also been calling the woman, I now check our phone records. Yesterday I found a text of his to a former boss's daughter. Paul was telling her how "hot" she is.

Abby, am I overreacting when I think Paul is going to cheat?

ALARMED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ALARMED: You're not overreacting. Paul is cheating on you emotionally, and doesn't appear to be entirely committed to your relationship. In fact, it appears he is looking for some outside adventures. You should not only be concerned, you should also be furious about what he's doing. This won't stop until YOU draw the line.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced during my junior year of high school. I am now a sophomore in college. I have done my best to maintain a good relationship with Dad, although I chose to live with my mother during the custody battle.

Since the divorce, Dad has verbally, emotionally and financially abused me to the point that I no longer want him as part of my life.

I miss having a father figure, even though no amount of counseling could ever mend our broken relationship. We went through two years of counseling, and the only thing I learned was that Dad believes he has done nothing wrong and my feelings about him are because of Mom.

How can I get over the pain and hurt my dad has caused me?

HEARTBROKEN IN MICHIGAN

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: It will probably take one-on-one counseling for you to establish enough emotional independence to toughen up. Your father's unwillingness (or inability) to take responsibility for his mistakes is an indication that, as much as you may need and want a father, he will never be the parent you would like him to be. It will take time and work on your part to get beyond this loss—and it IS a loss—so the ideal place to begin your journey would be by talking to a psychologist at the student health center.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 6-year-old cousin wanted to make a lemonade stand, so my sister and I helped her, but she got discouraged because nobody would buy any. She was so angry she started yelling, then she crossed the line and dropped the F-word. My sister and I were shocked that a 6-year-old would know that word. She said her classmate told it to her. (They're in kindergarten.)

We told our parents, but we're not sure if we should tell her mother because she might think my sister and I taught it to her. Should we tell her mother or let it slide hoping she will forget the word and move on?

NOT SURE IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR NOT SURE: Your parents should tell your aunt about the incident, just in case your cousin doesn't "forget" the word. That way her mother can explain to her that there are certain words polite people don't use because they are unacceptable.

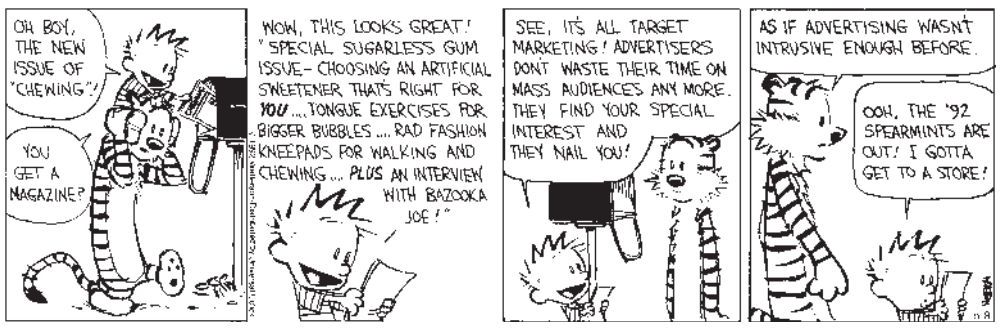
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH BOY, THE NEW ISSUE OF "CHEWING"!
YOU GET A MAGAZINE?
WOW, THIS LOOKS GREAT! "SPECIAL SUGARLESS GUM ISSUE- CHOOSING AN ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU ...TONGUE EXERCISES FOR BIGGER BUBBLES ... RAD FASHION KNEEPADS FOR WALKING AND CHEWING ... PLUS AN INTERVIEW WITH BAZOOKA JOE!"
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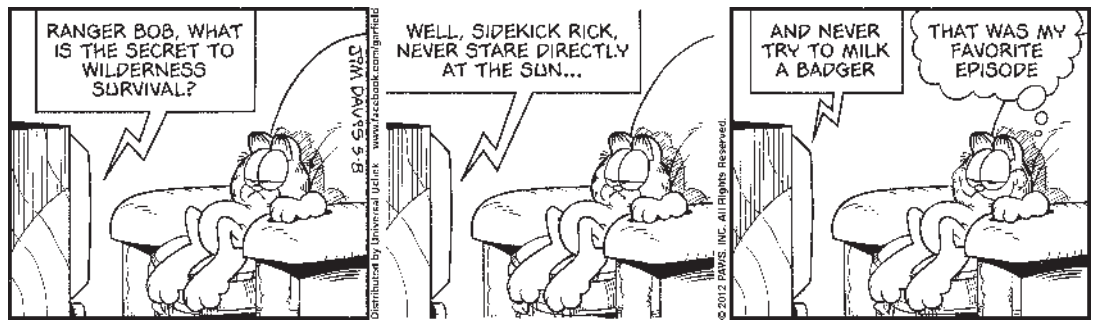
AS IF ADVERTISING WASN'T INTRUSIVE ENOUGH BEFORE.
OOH, THE '92 SPEARMINTS ARE OUT! I GOTTA GET TO A STORE!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


RANGER BOB, WHAT IS THE SECRET TO WILDERNESS SURVIVAL?
WELL, SIDEKICK RICK, NEVER STARE DIRECTLY AT THE SUN...
AND NEVER TRY TO MILK A BADGER
THAT WAS MY FAVORITE EPISODE
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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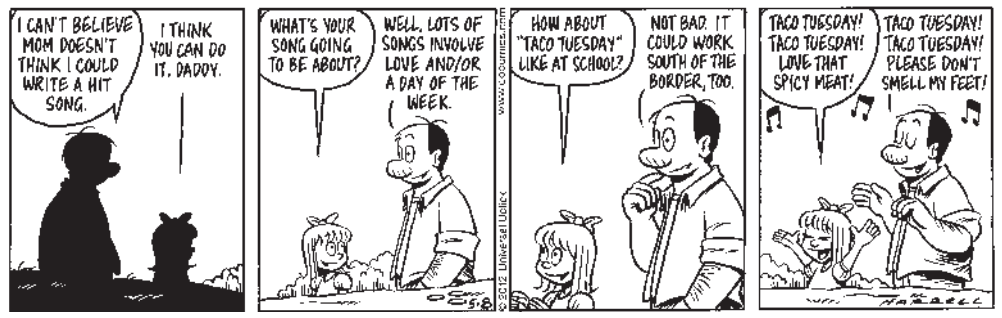
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I CAN'T BELIEVE MOM DOESN'T THINK I COULD WRITE A HIT SONG.
I THINK YOU CAN DO IT, DADDY.
WHAT'S YOUR SONG GOING TO BE ABOUT?
WELL, LOTS OF SONGS INVOLVE LOVE AND/OR A DAY OF THE WEEK.
HOW ABOUT "TACO TUESDAY" LIKE AT SCHOOL?
NOT BAD. IT COULD WORK SOUTH OF THE BORDER, TOO.
TACO TUESDAY! TACO TUESDAY! LOVE THAT SPICY MEAT!
TACO TUESDAY! TACO TUESDAY! PLEASE DON'T SMELL MY FEET!
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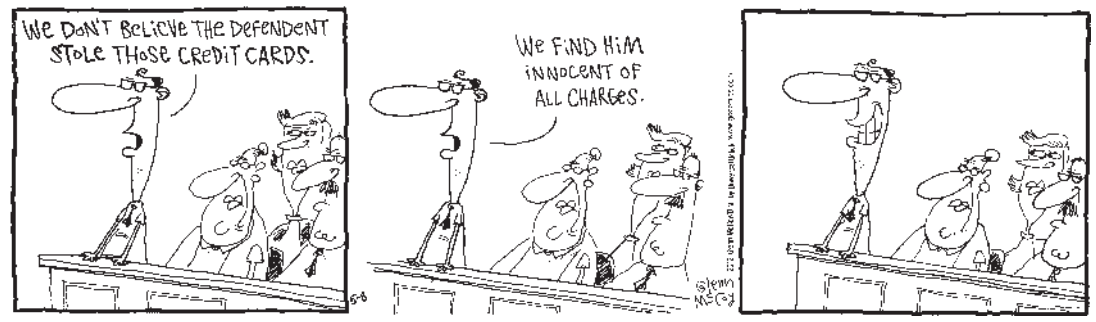
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

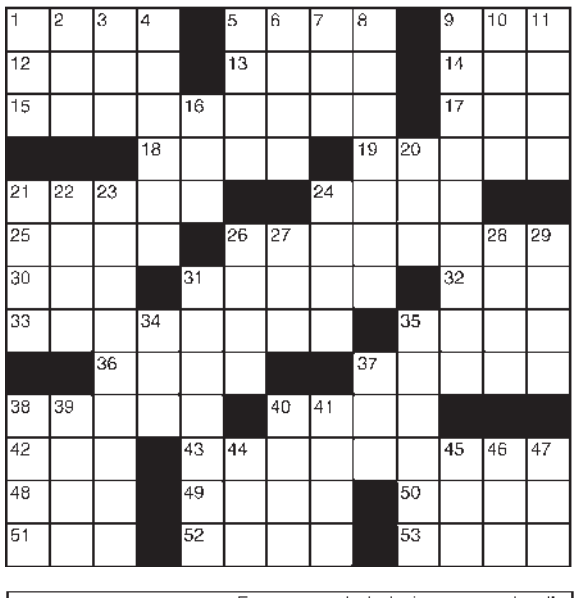
ACROSS
1 United nations
5 Half (Pref.)
9 TV overseer (Abbr.)
12 Pearl Harbor site
13 Former mates
14 Carte lead-in
15 Honesty of purpose
17 Charged bit
18 Sudden rush of wind
19 Glossy alternative
21 Earth tone
24 Apiece
25 Hammer's target
26 As one
30 Web address
31 Melodic
32 Anger
33 Individuality
35 Error
36 Very dry, as champagne
37 Cock and bull
38 Figure of speech
40 Suitor
42 — canto
43 Nightstick
48 Ailing
49 Love god
50 Facility
51 Crafty
52 Info on a notarized document
53 Oodle?

DOWN
1 Cranberry territory
2 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
3 Discoverer's cry
4 Bat
5 Vast areas
6 Way out
7 Encountered
8 "Moby-Dick" narrator
9 Popular country singer
10 Coagulate
11 Walking stick
16 Bear hair
20 Performance
21 Burden
22 Give a darn
23 Backwoods dweller
24 "Zounds!"
26 Hit the horn
27 Yoko of music
28 Great Lake
29 Agents, for short
31 Hitched a ride
34 To and —
35 Pasta toppings
37 Has permission
38 Sacred Egyptian bird
39 Farmer's home?
40 Rorschach picture
41 Differently
44 401(k) alternative
45 Fond du —, Wis.
46 G8 member
47 Foundation

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	I	L	L	■	S	E	T	■	B	R	A	S
S	W	E	E	T	P	E	A	■	L	O	B	E
M	O	O	N	W	A	L	K	■	U	S	E	R
■	■	■	N	I	T	■	F	R	R	A	T	A
B	E	F	O	G	■	S	N	U	B	■	■	■
O	P	E	N	■	F	O	O	T	S	I	E	■
W	I	E	■	S	L	O	T	H	■	M	U	D
■	C	L	I	M	A	T	E	■	D	A	R	E
■	■	■	H	U	G	H	■	D	E	M	O	N
F	L	E	E	T	S	■	E	A	R	■	■	■
I	O	T	A	■	H	A	L	F	M	O	O	N
F	O	U	R	■	I	N	S	T	I	N	C	T
F	N	I	D	■	P	I	F	■	S	F	T	H

Yesterday's answer 5-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Enrique Iglesias, 37; Melissa Gilbert, 48; David Keith, 58; Don Rickles, 86.

Happy Birthday: Strive for financial freedom. Dictate what you want to see happen. Don't follow the crowd. Assess your situation, set a budget and start moving toward a less stressful lifestyle. Your actions will lead to greater personal control if you are dedicated and passionate about the steps required to reach your destination. Your numbers are 6, 13, 18, 23, 31, 37, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Communication will help define what you want and what you will receive. It's important to be precise to avoid misunderstanding. Love is highlighted, along with improvements that will boost your ego, enabling you to present a perfect picture. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Learning something new will help you find ways to use your skills more diversely. Spreading out and manipulating your services to fit a wider variety of needs in your community will ensure a stable financial position. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't raise suspicion or create a situation that will cause problems for you at home or within a partnership. You are best to keep what you think, feel and plan to do out in the open if you don't want to harm your reputation. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your ability to adapt to whatever situation or challenge you face will determine how far you get. An opportunity to partner with someone you have worked with in the past will enable you to focus on obtaining greater status. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Pick up a new interest or sign up to learn something that will help further your goals. Don't sit idly waiting for others to pass you by. Take the initiative and do whatever it takes to stand out and take control. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your thoughts and feelings to yourself. You don't want to start something you cannot finish. Concentrate on meeting new people and visiting places you've never been before. You need to stimulate your senses and rejuvenate. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do something nice for a loved one. Participating in activities that will help you improve mentally, physically or emotionally will leave you better prepared to take care of pressing personal matters that are holding you back. Love is in the stars. 4 stars

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be receptive to what others offer, but be wary of what's expected in return. You can test the waters, but only if you ask questions and stay abreast of what everyone else is contributing. Keeping things fair will be necessary. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep your emotions hidden until you know where you stand. Too much talk may mislead someone who is undecided about something that is important to you. Don't argue when you should be compromising. Make love, not war. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put more time and effort into your home, surroundings and personal relationships. You will be criticized if you are emotionally neglectful. An unexpected change will hit you hard, adding to your responsibilities if you take someone for granted. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Consider what you have to offer and find an outlet for a service that can bring in a little extra cash. A change will do you good and spark some interesting ideas that can be turned into a worthwhile venture. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Listen carefully to what's being said. An emotional matter left unattended will lead to responsibilities that will be restrictive. Don't try to replace what doesn't need to be fixed. Focus on updating what you already have in place. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are brave, strong-willed and determined. You are an opportunist.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			6			9	2	
		5	3		8		7	
				5	2		6	
						2		
8			3					5
	9							
	3		1	7				
	5		2		9	3		
	6	4		8				7

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	1	2	7	6	5	9	4
2	7	5	9	1	4	3	8	6
9	4	6	5	8	3	1	2	7
4	8	7	1	9	5	2	6	3
5	2	3	4	6	7	9	1	8
1	6	9	8	3	2	4	7	5
7	5	4	6	2	9	8	3	1
6	9	8	3	4	1	7	5	2
3	1	2	7	5	8	6	4	9

Difficulty Level ★ 5/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WORDS WITH FRIENDS **Solution: 8 letters**

C	D	D	E	S	E	C	A	F	E	A	T	U	R	E
O	R	R	O	T	E	X	T	R	R	E	T	T	E	L
M	A	O	E	U	E	V	B	I	O	C	R	I	M	A
P	O	W	S	M	B	L	E	E	C	H	I	P	O	N
E	B	S	E	Ⓢ	A	L	E	N	S	A	P	S	V	I
T	U	S	A	Ⓦ	W	I	E	D	U	T	L	S	E	F
I	B	A	R	Ⓐ	B	O	N	U	S	S	E	L	I	P
T	B	P	C	Ⓟ	E	E	R	I	D	T	I	L	E	S
I	L	S	H	E	L	P	L	D	N	R	N	A	U	T
O	E	W	A	I	T	I	N	G	I	G	S	G	L	N
N	T	I	M	E	H	C	T	A	M	E	R	N	A	I
I	A	P	L	A	Y	E	R	S	L	A	M	Y	V	O
G	E	I	S	E	V	O	M	U	E	L	Z	Z	U	P
O	R	N	R	U	T	D	R	A	W	O	R	D	S	E
L	C	G	M	O	D	N	A	R	G	D	L	I	U	B

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Best, Board, Bonus, Bubble, Build, Chats, Competition, Create, Crossword, Delete, Double, Draw, Ends, Face, Feature, Final, Friend, Game, Help, Letter, List, Login, Mind, Moves, Password, Pile, Players, Points, Puzzle, Random, Remaining, Rematch, Remove, Rules, Score, Search, Seven, Swap, Swiping, Text, Tiles, Time, Tips, Triple, Turn, Value, Waiting, Words, Zynga

Yesterday's Answer: Digging

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 28 is the "Yesterday" Edition," featuring all the U.S. presidents and Canadian prime ministers. To order, send $5.25 each (US funds) for regular service (several weeks delivery) or $8 per book for first-class delivery. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-543-5435. Order online at puzzles.com. Contains 45 puzzles, 12 clip-art pages and 20 extra puzzles.

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WHATZIT Solution:
Rule of thumb

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD W. BURCHER, Jr., Petitioner,
vs.
DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER, Respondent.

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0443

ORDER FOR RESPONDENT DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD

TO: DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER

Pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301,YOU are hereby ORDERED to make a personal appearance before the Court or else to file any written response you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within twenty (20) days after publication of this Order in one of the two major daily newspapers in the Commonwealth. You are further directed to deliver or mail a copy of any responsive pleading that you file to Petitioner's attorney, Thomas E. Clifford, whose address is:

2nd Floor, Alexander Building,
San Jose
P.O. Box 506514
Saipan, MP 96950

as soon as practicable after filing. Any responsive pleading should be filed with Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. If you fail either to make a personal appearance or to file a written response in accordance with this Order, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

So ORDERED this 23rd day of January, 2012.

/s/ The Honorable PERRY B. INOS
Associate Judge

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The flagrance of war
Focus
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Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
SUDOKU
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
SRCR welcomed nine new members in 2011

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

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Anthony helps Knicks end 13-game playoff skid

NEW YORK (AP)—Amare Stoudemire raised his hands in the air, one covered in padding, as streamers fell from the ceiling above him.

Finally, New York could celebrate an NBA playoff victory again.

Carmelo Anthony scored 41 points, Stoudemire had 20 points and 10 rebounds in his return from a cut hand, and the Knicks snapped an NBA-record, 13-game postseason losing streak by beating the Miami Heat 89-87 Sunday in Game 4 of their first-round series.

"I think it's the first of many," said Stoudemire, his left arm back in a sling to keep his hand elevated. "Tonight was a great win for us, for our fans to finally get over that hump of those consecutive games that we lost, I guess the Knicks, lost over those years in the playoffs."

Anthony made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 54.5 seconds left as the Knicks overcame another serious injury to win a playoff game for the first time since beating Toronto on April 29, 2001, in Game 3 of a best-of-five series. Baron Davis dislocated his right kneecap in the third quarter, just as the Knicks were making the run that got them back into the game after a dismal first half.

"I'm just glad that we came together after that, kept our composure, kept on fighting and won the basketball game," Anthony said.

LeBron James scored 27 for the Heat, who will try to close it out in Game 5 at home on Wednesday. Dwyane Wade had 22, but missed a 3-pointer on the last possession that would have given Miami a lengthy rest before starting the second round.

"We'd love to take the week (off) but it's not in the cards for us to do that in this round," Wade said. "You know, we'll adjust. We play Wednesday in Miami at 7 o'clock. We'll be ready to play and give our fans another exciting game."

Wade's errant shot set off a loud celebration from Knicks fans whose team was on the verge of getting swept for the second straight year, and third straight time dating to 2004. It didn't look as if the elusive postseason victory would come in this series, after the Knicks had been blown out by 20 points per game in the first three games.

Lakers 92, Nuggets 88

In Denver, Kobe Bryant scored 22 points and Andrew Bynum added 19 as Los Angeles' stars got plenty of help from their supporting cast while taking a 3-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

The Lakers can wrap it up Tuesday when the series shifts back to Staples Center for Game 5.

Reserve Jordan Hill was big for L.A., posting a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds, and Steve Blake scored 10 points, including a key 3-pointer in the final minute as the Lakers overcame a six-point halftime deficit.

Ramon Sessions scored 12 points and also had a big 3 in the final minute for the Lakers.

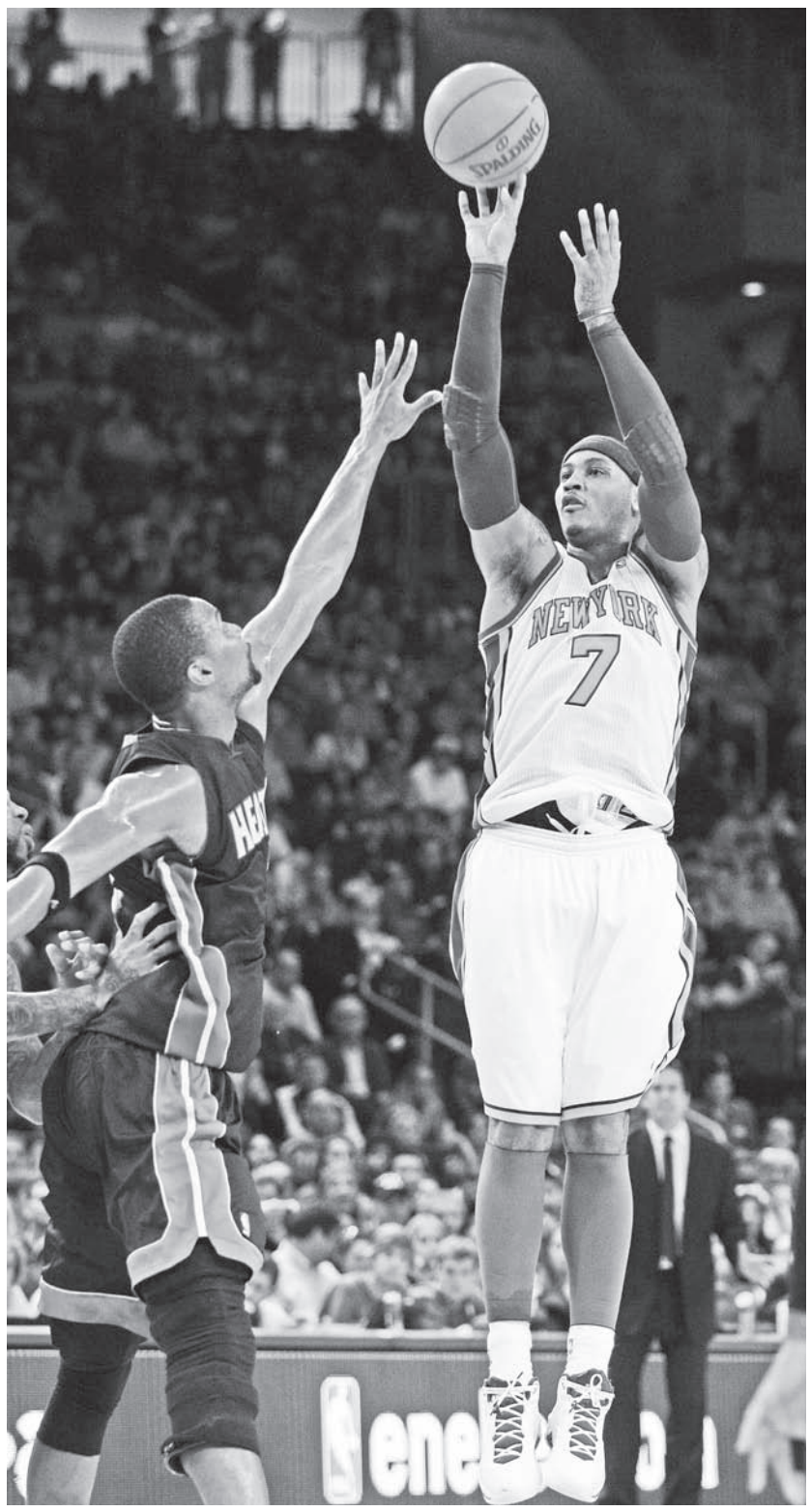
The game was briefly delayed with 1:10 left in the first half when a female fan started walking across the court while the Nuggets were setting up a play.

The woman walked several steps onto the court as Ty Lawson brought the ball past halfcourt. Officials blew the whistle to stop the play and the woman was escorted away by security.

Celtics 101, Hawks 79

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored 24 points in 18 minutes as Boston opened a 37-point third-quarter lead before coasting to the victory and a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

The Celtics can finish off the Hawks in Atlanta on Tuesday. Game 6 would be in Boston on Thursday, if necessary.



Two nights after his triple-double helped turn back the Hawks in overtime in Game 3, Rajon Rondo had 20 points and 16 assists as the Celtics got some much-needed rest for their aging and injured roster.

Josh Smith returned after missing Friday's game and had 15 points and 13 rebounds for Atlanta. Al Horford, who played for the first time in almost four months, scored 12 points.

Rondo, whose triple-double Friday was the seventh of his career, may have been even better in Game 4, shooting 8 for 11 from the floor.

76ers 89, Bulls 82

In Philadelphia, Spencer Hawes scored 22 points and Jrue Holiday had 20 to help Philadelphia beat top-seeded Chicago for a 3-1 lead in the first-round series.

Andre Iguodala had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Sixers, who have won the last three games after dropping Game 1 in Chicago.

Holiday stretched the lead with consecutive 3-pointers late in the game to put the Sixers one win away from becoming only the fifth No. 8 seed to win an opening round series. Memphis pulled it off last season against San Antonio, and Golden State (2007), New York (1999) and Denver (1994) also accomplished the rare feat

Carlos Boozer had 23 points and 11 rebounds, and Taj Gibson added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls, who played without Derrick Rose (torn ACL) and Joakim Noah (sprained ankle). Rose is out for the season and Noah is day to day for the rest of the series.

Game 5 is Tuesday in Chicago.

New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) shoots over Miami Heat's Chris Bosh during the first half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series at Madison Square Garden, Sunday, May 6, 2012, in New York.

AP

Fowler finally a winner on the PGA Tour

WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Rickie Fowler has never been afraid to put it all on the line.

The thrill-seeking passion for motocross as a teenager. The head-turning clothing he brought to the PGA Tour as a rookie, such as the bright orange ensemble from head-to-toe on Sundays. With a chance to finally break through for his first PGA Tour win, the kid showed his true colors.

In a three-way playoff that featured U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy, the 23-year-old Fowler gambled with a 51-degree wedge that had to be perfect on an 18th hole at Quail Hollow that had yielded only four birdies all day.

And it was.

Fowler stuffed his shot into 4 feet for a birdie on the first extra hole to beat McIlroy and D.A. Points and win the Wells Fargo Championship on Sunday. It was his first PGA Tour win in his 67th start as a pro, bringing him a small measure of relief and a big dose of credibility.

"I didn't want to play it safe," Fowler said. "I had a good number (133 yards), and I was aiming right of the hole with the wind coming out of the right, and if I hit a perfect shot, it comes down right on the stick. ... I hit a perfect shot at the right time, and I was going for it."

McIlroy, who returned to No. 1 in the world, used Quail Hollow as a launching pad toward stardom when he won here two years ago. Perhaps this is the start of a rivalry for years between a pair of 23-year-olds who bring power, flair and exuberance to the game.

"I'm looking forward to playing with Rory for a long time," said Fowler, who closed with a 3-under 69. "It's awesome. It's a long wait, but well worth it."

McIlroy established himself on the same green two years ago, a 20-year-old who closed out a record 62 by making a 40-foot putt for his first PGA Tour win, and the biggest of his career until adding a record-breaking U.S. Open title last summer at Congressional.

This time, it was Fowler's turn.

"You wouldn't call the 18th today a birdie hole with that pin," McIlroy said. "For Rickie to go out and play that hole the way he did, he deserved to win."

Along for the ride was Points, a 35-year-old who had the tournament in his grasp until ending 40 straight holes without a bogey by making one at the worst time. He had a one-shot lead going to the 18th in regulation, hit his approach in a bunker and never came close to a par. He shot 71.

McIlroy had a shot at winning in regulation and missed a 15-foot birdie putt, giving him a 70.

In the playoff, all three hit the fairway, with McIlroy hitting a 3-wood that traveled nearly 340 yards. Points and McIlroy were well off the mark and had to work hard to get their two-putt pars. Fowler came up with the best shot of his career.

"The shot he hit was spectacular," Points said.

Even though they're the same age, McIlroy has a two-year head start on Fowler. They were in the Walker Cup together in 2007, and McIlroy turned pro that fall. Fowler didn't turn pro until two years ago. The only other time Fowler won as a pro was last year at the Korea Open, where he also beat McIlroy.

The difference was winning, and McIlroy still has a big edge.

As he entered the press conference, Fowler put his hat on backward, smiled and said, "Told you it was coming."

"It's a good feeling right now," Fowler said. "Definitely some relief, satisfaction. I'm definitely happy. It's not a bad thing, winning. It's kind of fun."

Fowler and McIlroy both recovered from late bogeys to get in the playoff.

Fowler had the outright lead until he went bunker-to-bunker on the 16th hole, the second time drawing a plugged lie, and missed a 10-foot par putt. He had a 20-foot birdie putt on the last hole, though it never had a chance. He was the first one in at 14-under 274.

McIlroy went long of the green on the par-3 17th and missed an 8-foot par putt, but when Points struggled on the 18th, McIlroy had a putt for the win.

Webb Simpson, the 54-hole leader who lives a mile from Quail Hollow, made a mess of the eighth hole for a bogey and three-putted the 11th to fall back. Back-to-back birdies late in his round kept his hopes alive, and he had a 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th to join the playoff. It missed and he had a 73 to finish alone in fourth.

Ryan Moore, who played in the final group with Simpson, didn't make a birdie until the 15th hole and shot 74. He tied for fifth with Lee Westwood (66) and Ben Curtis (67), who finished before the leaders got to the back nine.

For all his endorsements and marketing prowess, Fowler was starting to hear whispers about when he was going to win. What carried him along was patience and impeccable manners, which have made him a favorite among his peers.

Making this win even sweeter was having his mother, Lynn, and girlfriend Alexandra Brown (daughter of PGA Tour winner Olin Browne) in the gallery.

"I'm over the top," his mother said, fighting back tears. "I'm relieved for him because this is an expectation from the people, the fans, the tournament staff directors. And now he can hopefully carry on and do the work that he likes to do."

On the back nine, it was clear this was a three-man race, and all had their shots at winning.

"I think it was just a matter of time before he won," McIlroy said. "It seems like this tournament produces first-time winners—Anthony Kim, myself, now Rickie. It's great to see. He probably has went through a little bit of scrutiny and a lot of pressure trying to get that first win. But now that win is out of the way. Hopefully, that will ease the pressure a little bit."

Pujols hits first HR for Angels in 4-3 win

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Albert Pujols finally hit a home run for the Los Angeles Angels, ending the longest power drought of his career Sunday in a 4-3 win over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Pujols connected in the fifth inning for his first AL homer and the 446th overall. When he returned to the dugout, he had it all to himself. No players, no coaches, no batboys.

Pujols' teammates gave him the ol' silent treatment, a plot hatched by Torii Hunter. They were all waiting for the slugger in the tunnel leading to the clubhouse. Then, a burst of euphoria and they were all back on the bench, high-fiving and slapping him all over his body.

The three-time National League most valuable player had gone 33 games and 139 at-bats dating to last year without a home run in the regular season.

Pujols drove a 2-2 pitch from Drew Hutchison (1-1) into the left-field bullpen for a two-run shot. He homered in his 28th game and 111th at-bat with the Angels, who signed him to a 10-year, $240 million contract as a free agent in December.

AP

Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols, lines out to the shortstop as Toronto Blue Jays catcher Jeff Mathis watches during the fourth inning of their baseball game, Friday, May 4, 2012, in Anaheim, Calif.

Orioles 9, Red Sox 6, 17 innings

In Boston, Baltimore designated hitter Chris Davis overcame an awful day at the plate by pitching two scoreless innings and getting the win as the Orioles outlasted Boston in the first major league game since 1925 in which both teams put a position player on the mound.

Davis went 0 for 8, striking out five times and grounding into a double play. But in a season full of surprises for the Orioles, a first baseman by trade delivered the biggest one yet in a crazy game at Fenway Park.

Adam Jones hit a three-run homer in the top of the 17th off Darnell McDonald (0-1), an outfielder the Red Sox turned to once their bullpen was empty.

The last time two teams brought in position players to pitch in the same game was Oct. 4, 1925, when Hall of Famers Ty Cobb of Detroit and George Sisler of the St. Louis Browns closed out the second game of a doubleheader on the last day of the season, STATS LLC said.

The last time any position player wound up as the winning pitcher was May 25, 2011, when Philadelphia infielder Wilson Valdez threw one scoreless inning in a 19-inning victory over Cincinnati.

J.J. Hardy had five hits, including two homers, as Baltimore completed a sweep and won its fifth in a row. The shortstop also made a relay to the plate that cut down the potential winning run to end the 16th.

Robert Andino hit a three-run shot for the Orioles, who improved to a major league-best 19-9.

Boston rookie Will Middlebrooks hit a grand slam for his first major league homer. Gonzlaez was 0 for 8.

Indians 4, Rangers 2

In Cleveland, Ubaldo Jimenez pitched seven scoreless innings as Cleveland handed Texas rookie Yu Darvish (4-1) his first major league loss.

Asdrubal Cabrera hit a two-run double and Jason Kipnis homered off the Japanese star, who struck out a career-high 11 over six innings. Jimenez (3-2) walked four in the first three innings but settled down and permitted only two hits.

Chris Perez pitched the ninth for his 11th consecutive save. He was helped by a diving catch in right field by Choo Shin-soo.

The first-place Indians took two of three from the two-time defending AL champions after going 1-9 against the Rangers in 2011.

Yankees 10, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Missouri, Robinson Cano hit his eighth career grand slam, Alex Rodriguez added a three-run shot as New York tagged Kansas City starter Luke Hochevar.

Nick Swisher added a homer in his return to the starting lineup from a hamstring injury, helping the Yankees earn a four-game split. Phil Hughes (2-4) went a season-high 6 2-3 innings for the win.

Hochevar (2-3) was battered for the second straight start, his ERA soaring to 9.00 on the season. He was yanked after 2 1-3 innings.

Tigers 3, White Sox 1

In Detroit, Prince Fielder homered and Rick Porcello pitched impressively into the seventh inning to lead Detroit over Chicago.

Fielder's 432-foot shot to right-center—his fourth of the year—broke a 1-all tie in the third. Austin Jackson homered for the Tigers in the first after Adam Dunn gave Chicago an early lead with a solo shot in the top half.

Andy Dirks added a home run in the eighth.

Porcello (3-2) allowed a run and four hits in 6 1-3 innings. Four relievers finished for the Tigers, with Jose Valverde pitching the ninth for his fifth save.

Athletics 9, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Brandon Inge hit his first homer for Oakland and drove in four runs as the Athletics roughed up Tampa Bay rookie pitcher Matt Moore.

Jonny Gomes and Daric Barton knocked in two runs apiece for the A's, who took two of three at Tropicana Field to hand the Rays their first series loss since Boston won three of four April 13-16.

Tampa Bay dropped its second straight, falling to 13-3 at home, and failed again to become the first major league team to reach 20 wins.

Inge, released by Detroit on April 26 after 11 seasons with the Tigers, hit a three-run shot off Moore (1-2) in the third to give Oakland a 5-4 lead after Tommy Milone (4-2) struggled in the first.

Mariners 5, Twins 2

In Seattle, rookie slugger Jesus Montero lined a two-run double in the first inning and Mike Carp added his first homer of the season to lead Seattle past slumping Minnesota.

Mariners starter Hector Noesi (2-3) took a shutout into the seventh before giving up a solo shot to Ryan Doumit, who homered again in the ninth off Tom Wilhelmsen. Seattle won its second straight after snapping a seven-game skid Saturday night.

Marlins 6, Padres 3

In San Diego, Ricky Nolasco remained unbeaten and Giancarlo Stanton drew a bases-loaded walk to force in the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning as the Miami Marlins beat the San Diego Padres for their season-best sixth straight victory.

Miami had lost eight of nine before its winning streak. The Marlins have swept consecutive three-game series on the road for the second time in team history.

Stanton's walk keyed a four-run eighth. The slugger saw eight pitches from Andrew Cashner (2-2) and all of them registered at least 101 mph.

Nolasco (4-0) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings to tie Dontrelle Willis for the club record with his 68th career win.

Giants 4, Brewers 3, 11 innings

In San Francisco, pinch-hitter Hector Sanchez singled over a five-man infield with the bases loaded in the 11th inning, giving San Francisco a victory over Milwaukee.

Buster Poster singled off sidearm submariner Tim Dillard (0-1) leading off the inning and pinch-runner Emmanuel Burriss moved to second on Angel Pagan's sacrifice bunt.

Travis Ishikawa's run-scoring double for the Brewers handed fill-in closer Santiago Casilla his first blown save in the ninth.

Left hander Javier Lopez (3-0) got one out for the win after Matt Cain struck out 10 in seven innings. Pagan extended his hitting streak to 20 games, the longest active run in the majors.

Phillies 9, Nationals 3

In Washington, Cole Hamels gave up five hits over eight innings and Hunter Pence hit a pair of two-run home runs to lead Philadelphia over Washington.

Hamels was in line for his 11th career complete game as he batted to lead off the ninth.

The Phillies' offense then batted around, scoring six runs, and Hamels was lifted for pinch-hitter John Mayberry when his spot came up the second time in the inning.

Washington rookie Bryce Harper stole home in the first inning, just the latest in an already growing list of accomplishments for the 19-year-old. But the Nationals lost a key player when right fielder Jayson Werth broke his left wrist while attempting a sliding catch.

Braves 7, Rockies 2

In Denver, Brandon Beachy pitched effectively into the seventh inning and Freddie Freeman hit a three-run homer as Atlanta beat Colorado for a three-game sweep.

Dan Uggla homered, singled and drove in two runs for the Braves, who are a major league-best 18-7 since April 10. The Rockies went 3-6 on their homestand.

Beachy (3-1) allowed two runs and four hits in 6 1-3 innings, retiring 14 straight during one stretch. Cristhian Martinez tossed 2 2-3 hitless innings for his first save.

Cardinals 8, Astros 1

In Houston, Tyler Greene hit a career-high two homers and drove in four runs as Adam Wainwright kept up his dominance of Houston.

Allen Craig also homered as St. Louis stopped a three-game skid and ended Houston's five-game winning streak.

Wainwright (2-3) improved to 10-1 in 17 career appearances against the Astros—his most wins against any team.

J.A. Happ (2-2) allowed a season-high six runs in five innings.

Cubs 4, Dodgers 3, 11 innings

In Chicago, David DeJesus drew a bases-loaded walk in the 11th inning to lift Chicago over Los Angeles.

Darwin Barney led off the 11th with a double. Wellington Castillo was intentionally walked and pinch-hitter Jeff Samardzija was hit by a pitch to load the bases. On a 3-2 pitch, DeJesus drew the game-winning walk.

Starlin Castro hit a two-run single for the Cubs, who overcame an early 3-0 deficit. They tied it on Tony Campana's double in the ninth off closer Javy Guerra. DeJesus, who would have been the winning run, was thrown out at home.

It was Guerra's third blown save in 11 chances. Rafael Dolis (2-2) got the win, while Jamey Wright (1-2) took the loss.

The start was delayed 2 hours, 41 minutes by rain.

Mets 3, Diamondbacks 1

In New York, R.A. Dickey baffled the Diamondbacks with his knuckleball, pitching shutout ball into the ninth inning to lead New York past Arizona.

Dickey (4-1) allowed four hits in eight-plus innings, struck out four and walked four, coming within three outs of his third career shutout. Frank Francisco earned his seventh save in eight chances.

Daniel Murphy hit a two-run single in the first and Josh Thole had an RBI single in the fifth. Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada left in the fifth after straining his right quadriceps.

Reds 5, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Mat Latos struck out a career-high 11 batters over six sharp innings in Cincinnati's victory over Pittsburgh.

Drew Stubbs had three hits, including a two-run homer, and scored three times. Todd Frazier added his first home run of the season.

Latos (2-2) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the first and then cruised. Pittsburgh never got a runner past second base over his final five innings. The right-hander gave up two hits while walking three.

Three relievers upped Cincinnati's strikeout total to 17, tying a club record for a nine-inning game.

SML, DYS launch Koblerville Youth Program

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Major League Baseball Association, in partnership with the Division of Youth Services, has announced plans of implementing a new youth program based in Koblerville.

The purpose of the youth program is to bring "at-risk" and/or underprivileged youngsters, ages 14 to 18, together and brainstorm ways to improve and promote life-skill challenges such as discipline, fostering friendship and camaraderie, respect, sportsmanship, and understanding the significance of being leaders in their community.

One plan of the group is to create and establish a club that consists of club officers (i.e., president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and other committees as deemed necessary) to carry out its objectives which may include: village clean-ups, free yard clean-ups, sponsoring a youth dance, conducting bake sales, and organizing various sports activities to promote healthy living.

Funds generated from these activities may be used to purchase supplies and materials to be reinvested in the club. There are other projects and activities already lined by the group to take place later this year.

Community leaders and expert personnel from the various public and private entities are also expected to conduct seminars on an array of different topics; parents are encouraged to register their kids to participate in the activities.

According to some youth program organizers, as stated in a recent email, partaking in the anticipated community youth activities is necessary to ensure that such individuals of the aforementioned age group, and those living in poverty especially, are properly accommodated.

Although relatively new to the idea, the SMLBA will take the lead role in organizing the implementation of this program and is inviting other interested parties to join in the effort.

SMLBA has conducted youth developmental programs such as baseball clinics, camps, tournaments, and leagues, in the past, in an effort to entice participation from the youth population. Their previous programs are also aimed at deterring negative activities amongst this age group.

Other SMLBA events include a youth baseball clinic to prepare players for its upcoming 2012 Summer/Fall Baseball Youth League as well as an upcoming coaches and umpires' clinic for certification purposes, which will be held once week each on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For more information, contact SMLBA's Tony Rogolifoi at 288-5426 or 785-0823.

MILLER

From Page 28

6-3. He advanced to the finals with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Tommy Choi.

Dela Cruz, meanwhile, got into the championship round following a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Seiya Ada.

Park, for his part, annexed the boys 12-and-under crown with a hard-earned 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 win against Luther Lizama.

He also needed three sets to make it to the championship round after outlasting Vincent Tudela, 5-7, 6-0, 6-2.

Lizama, on the other hand, barged into the finals with an easier 6-2, 6-4 triumph against Clayton Izuka.

Schorr, meantime, captured the boys 10-and-under title following his 9-8, 7-4 win over Ken Song. Schorr and Song reached the finals with wins over Haruya Eda (8-6) and Joshua Abracean (9-7), respectively.

Results of the girls singles and boys and girls doubles will be published in the *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

The 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships was organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association with Angelo Jones serving as tournament director.

The top finishers in the season-ending youth tourney will get ranking points. These points will be compiled by NMITA and will help determine the CNMI's representatives to the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam in June.

The Top 5 players in the ranking list in the U15 and U12 age groups and Top 4 in the U18 will earn slots on the team.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

gjoo Yoo, Ryosei Toda, Miku Tammy, Angel De Jesus, and Angel Tan.

Sugie, a 13-year-old student of Saipan International School, will see action in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle, and 50m backstroke.

Kaito Yanai, for his part, will start with the 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle, and 100m breaststroke. The 12-year-old Garapan Elementary School will also tackle the longer 200m breaststroke, 200m IM, and 400m freestyle.

His younger brother, 8-year-old Ryuto Yanai also of GES, will swim in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle, and 50m backstroke.

Twelve-year-old Yoo of Grace Christian Academy will tackle the 50m breaststroke, 100m breaststroke, and 50m freestyle, while 11-year-old Saipan Community School student Ryosei Toda will compete in the 50m breaststroke, 100m breaststroke, 200m breaststroke, and 50m freestyle.

Miku Tammy, 10 years old of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, will plunge in the pool in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 100m butterfly, and 200m backstroke.

Hopwood Junior High School 13-year-old De Jesus, meanwhile, will swim in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 50m backstroke, and 50m butterfly.

Last but definitely not the least, 13-year-old Tan of Grace Christian Academy will compete in the 50m breaststroke, 100m breaststroke, 200m breaststroke, and 50m freestyle.

Coach Kimura said like in other meets, Tsunami Saipan's objective in the Guam Swimming Championships is to improve the times of their swimmers.

He said like the Saipan International Swimming Meet, the Guam event will also be handing awards to the swimmer with the highest overall total points.

The elder Kimura, however, said this could skew the performance of swimmers since participants can join as much as eight events without even improving times in any of his or her events.

He said Tsunami Saipan is more focused in improving the individual times of its swimmers rather than have them take part in as many events as possible.

"Because Tsunami Saipan wants to make its swimmers focus on updating their personal best time, our No. 1 priority at this meet is to get 100 percent personal best times," he said.

Tsunami Saipan's nine swimmers and coach Kimura will leave Saipan in the early morning of Friday, May 11, and will return from Guam on Sunday, May 13.

Coach Kimura also extended his thanks to Tsunami Saipan's many sponsors for helping out the club in its events. They include Tan Holdings, Mariana Resort and Spa, DFS Galleria Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, and McDonald's Saipan.

He also thanked the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation, the governing body for the sports of swimming in the CNMI; and the Guam Swimming Federation, the group that invited Tsunami Saipan to compete in the Guam meet.

BARRACUDAS

From Page 28

trishia Echavez, Jahnelle Francisco, Joy Pena, Denise Samson, Shaina Santiago, Keolani Rios, and Glorily Williams.

The team won a team trophy and bragging rights after the month-long season of competition leading up to the finale.

Barracudas/Mantas' Rios struck with a string of three early buckets after the opening tip to put her team on a good pace and teammates Abrahms and Pena matched her effort late in the half of the period to put the group ahead, 12-6, at the break.

Sharks/Dolphins' Lia Rangamar retaliated with a couple of baskets to end the first canto and added two more quick strikes in the second half.

But the Barracudas/Mantas' defense remained strong in the trenches.

Sharks/Dolphins' Karleen Reyes tried to get things going with five points in the clutch, but the champion team did a good job both using their bench and spreading the ball around as seven different players all chipped in on the action.

Barracudas/Mantas' Rios and Abrahms led the charge with six points apiece, while Sharks/Dolphins' Rangamar led all scorers with eight.

GCDC's anniversary event also had a series of family games for modest prize packages provided by sponsors Coca-Cola Saipan, D&Q Saipan, Docomo Pacific, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hollywood Theater, Horizons Inc., Hyatt Regency Saipan, IP&E, Marianas Country Club, McDonald's Saipan, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Modern Stationary, Pacific Islands Club, and Triple J Motors.

The Itibus, Rios, and Taitano families were hailed as the winners of contest after completion of an assortment of relay games such as the spoon toss, sneaker scramble, and a grab bag race among others.

Kagman Elementary School's Umang Glee Club also performed during the side games intermission.

The GCDC would like to thank the Commonwealth Election Commission, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, Reps. Edmund Villagomez and Francisco Dela Cruz, and the Carolinian Affairs Office for all of their support.

GCDC's Joe Diaz was also on hand and extended his gratitude to the Umang Club and event volunteers Verna and John Babauta, Jason Peter Iglesias, Fred Litulumar, James Itibus, Cyprianna Kapileo, Paul Camacho, Ichnis, Jenifer, Richard and Josephine.

In addition to celebrating GCDC's one year of service, the purpose of event was also to get the word out to the public that GCDC's services are ready and available.

GCDC offers daily after-school programs and forms of counseling throughout the week. Call 233-8978 for more information.

Barracudas/Mantas 28 – Abrahms 6, Rios 6, Alegre 4, Castillo 2, Francisco 2, Pena 2, Samson 2, Santiago 2, Williams 2.

Sharks/Dolphins 16 – Rangamar 8, Reyes 5, Alipio 2, Lebria 2, Kautz 1.

Scoring by halves: 12-6, 28-16.

TREVALI

From Page 28

They also won third place in the most variety behind runners-up Ton Aquiningoc and Eddie Quichocho Lizama and Most Variety winners Lawrence Duponcheel.

Aquiningoc and Quichocho claimed first place in the Most Weight in front of the grand prize couple, while Lizama and Duponcheel rounded out the third spot.

All first place winners received $300 cash prizes, $200 went to the runners-up of each category, and $100 was awarded to the third place finisher.

All place finishers also received a free T-shirt and an island-style complimentary dinner. Various other prizes were passed out in a raffle drawing held during the awards banquet.

A total of 14 Tinian residents and five tourists turned out for the competition.

The event was sponsored by the Tinian Municipal Council and the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Other sponsors included U-Save Mart, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Norbert U. Hofschneider, Crystal Clear Water & Ice Co., Long Feng Store, Lucky Qiang, Fleming Corp., J&J Mart, JC Café, and 3-K Store.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	19	9	.679	–
Tampa Bay	19	10	.655	1/2
Toronto	16	13	.552	3 1/2
New York	15	13	.536	4
Boston	11	16	.407	7 1/2
Central Division				
Cleveland	15	11	.577	–
Detroit	14	13	.519	1 1/2
Chicago	13	15	.464	3
Kansas City	9	18	.333	6 1/2
Minnesota	7	20	.259	8 1/2
West Division				
Texas	18	10	.643	–
Oakland	15	14	.517	3 1/2
Seattle	13	17	.433	6
Los Angeles	12	17	.414	6 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	18	10	.643	–
Atlanta	18	11	.621	1/2
New York	15	13	.536	3
Miami	14	14	.500	4
Philadelphia	14	15	.483	4 1/2
Central Division				
St. Louis	17	11	.607	–
Cincinnati	14	13	.519	2 1/2
Houston	13	15	.464	4
Milwaukee	12	16	.429	5
Pittsburgh	12	16	.429	5
Chicago	11	17	.393	6
West Division				
Los Angeles	18	10	.643	–
San Francisco	14	14	.500	4
Arizona	14	15	.483	4 1/2
Colorado	12	15	.444	5 1/2
San Diego	9	20	.310	9 1/2

WELLS FARGO SCORES

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)–Scores Saturday from the Wells Fargo Championship, a US PGA Tour event at the 7,469-yard, par-72 Quail Hollow Club Course:

FINAL ROUND

x-Rickie Fowler (500), $1,170,000	66-72-67-69–274
Rory McIlroy (245), $572,000	70-68-66-70–274
D.A. Points (245), $572,000	66-68-69-71–274
Webb Simpson (135), $312,000	65-68-69-73–275
Ben Curtis (100), $237,250	69-70-71-67–277
Ryan Moore (100), $237,250	65-70-68-74–277
Lee Westwood (100), $237,250	71-72-68-66–277
Nick Watney (85), $201,500	68-64-72-74–278
Jonas Blixt (68), $156,000	68-73-67-71–279
Jonathan Byrd (68), $156,000	69-69-72-69–279
Brian Davis (68), $156,000	66-74-69-70–279
Jason Day (68), $156,000	70-70-69-70–279
James Driscoll (68), $156,000	71-70-69-69–279
Seung-Yul Noh (68), $156,000	68-70-70-71–279
Stewart Cink (54), $100,750	65-69-71-75–280
Robert Garrigus (54), $100,750	69-72-68-71–280
George McNeill (54), $100,750	70-68-68-74–280
Sean O'Hair (54), $100,750	72-69-69-70–280
John Senden (54), $100,750	66-68-72-74–280
David Toms (54), $100,750	74-65-70-71–280
Arjun Atwal (48), $67,600	68-69-75-69–281
Ben Crane (48), $67,600	70-64-73-74–281
Martin Flores (48), $67,600	68-70-71-72–281
Hunter Haas (48), $67,600	68-68-75-70–281
Geoff Ogilvy (48), $67,600	71-70-65-75–281
Will Claxton (43), $47,125	71-72-70-69–282
Jim Furyk (43), $47,125	71-71-71-69–282
Sung Kang (43), $47,125	71-70-70-71–282
Martin Laird (43), $47,125	72-70-69-71–282
Phil Mickelson (43), $47,125	71-72-68-71–282
Kevin Stadler (43), $47,125	68-74-70-70–282
Roberto Castro (36), $34,450	68-72-72-71–283
Ken Duke (36), $34,450	72-71-72-68–283
Spencer Levin (36), $34,450	72-68-70-73–283
Billy Mayfair (36), $34,450	67-71-73-72–283
Patrick Reed, $34,450	66-74-69-74–283
Heath Slocum (36), $34,450	69-67-75-72–283
Josh Teater (36), $34,450	69-73-71-70–283
Camilo Villegas (36), $34,450	71-70-69-73–283
Chad Campbell (29), $24,700	72-71-72-69–284
Brendon de Jonge (29), $24,700	67-73-72-72–284
Tommy Gainey (29), $24,700	68-72-69-75–284
Richard H. Lee (29), $24,700	70-69-69-76–284
Rocco Mediate (29), $24,700	68-69-75-72–284
John Merrick (29), $24,700	70-68-74-72–284
Troy Matteson (25), $19,500	74-69-70-72–285
Carl Pettersson (25), $19,500	69-72-70-74–285
Robert Karlsson (21), $16,536	71-67-73-75–286
Jeff Overton (21), $16,536	68-71-70-77–286
Dicky Pride (21), $16,536	69-72-73-72–286
Brendan Steele (21), $16,536	71-72-71-72–286
Jimmy Walker (21), $16,536	69-73-73-71–286
Kevin Chappell (17), $15,048	72-71-71-73–287
Tom Gillis (17), $15,048	73-68-69-77–287
Ryuji Imada (17), $15,048	69-72-72-74–287
Hunter Mahan (17), $15,048	73-68-75-71–287
Sang-Moon Bae (11), $14,235	69-69-77-73–288
Gary Christian (11), $14,235	73-70-74-71–288
Brian Harman (11), $14,235	67-74-72-75–288
J.J. Henry (11), $14,235	73-69-71-75–288
J.B. Holmes (11), $14,235	71-71-69-77–288
Chris Kirk (11), $14,235	75-67-73-73–288
Andres Romero (11), $14,235	70-71-73-74–288
Cameron Tringale (11), $14,235	69-74-70-75–288
Aaron Baddeley (5), $13,455	69-73-75-72–289
David Hearn (5), $13,455	70-72-76-71–289
Marc Leishman (5), $13,455	75-67-74-73–289
Johnson Wagner (5), $13,455	71-66-74-78–289
Brandt Jobe (1), $13,000	72-70-73-75–290
Zach Johnson (1), $13,000	70-71-77-72–290
Kyle Reifers (1), $13,000	70-72-69-79–290
Gavin Coles (1), $12,740	72-71-75-74–292
Alexandre Rocha (1), $12,610	68-75-73-77–293
Harris English (1), $12,480	70-72-77-75–294

x-won on first playoff hole

2012 Boys Asian Football Confederation U14 Festival

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CNMI U14 National Football player Gideon Borja moves forward against Guam.

CNMI U14 National Football Team's Danny Auther in action against Guam in the 2012 Boys Asian Football Confederation U14 Festival in Beijing, China.

CNMI U14 National Football player Joel Fruit comes in at full force to kick the ball during the skills test.

CNMI U14 National Football player Louie Calayag makes a move against powerhouse Japan.

CNMI U14 National Football player Wataru Tajima is about to kick the soccer ball during the skills test.

CNMI U14 National Football player Moris Villanueva during is turn in the skills test.

The CNMI U14 National Football players are out shopping at Hong Qiao Pearl Market in Beijing, China.

The CNMI U14 National Football Team boarding a bus to go to town.

Ryu Tanzawa takes part in a skills test during the CNMI U14 National Football Team's rest day.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Miller dethrones Jones in boys U18

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Christian Miller won his very first 18-and-under title of the CNMI Junior Tennis Championships after outlasting defending champion Rafael Jones in a three-set finals last Sunday at the American Memorial Park.

With the scorching midday sun baking the Garapan public courts, Miller ended Jones' reign with a 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 victory.

Jones actually rallied to take the first set, holding serve and breaking Miller's to win the last two games and force a tiebreak.

In one or two occasions in the first set, a visibly frustrated Miller was so upset with himself for letting a golden opportunity slip away that he slammed his racquet on the court.

He, however, recovered his cool and in the process sharpened his game in the second set to dominate Jones.

The defending champion was visibly spent after the opening set, as he took longer than usual breaks in between points and used his large towel to try and shield himself from the unforgiving rays of the sun.

Jones battled back in the third and deciding set, but a fresher and more composed Miller eventually won out and took the championship.

It was a morale-boosting win for the Saipan Southern High School student, who took a month-long sabbatical from tennis last year to concentrate on his studies.

Aside from the championship trophy, Miller also had his name etched in the CNMI Junior Tennis Championships perpetual trophy as the 2012 champion of the boys 18-and-under singles.

Miller barged into the finals after skunking Amami Sakano, 6-0, 6-0, in the semis. Before that he didn't even lift a finger in his opening round assignment as he won via walkover against Primo Po.

Jones had a relatively more difficult road to the finals, as the Saipan International School student beat Hunter Thorpe, 6-0, 6-0, in the first round before defeating Jake Lee, 6-4, 6-1, to reach the championship round.

Also winning championships in Week 2 of the boys singles event were Christian Cajigan, Alex Park, and Robbie Schorr.

Cajigan topped the boys 15-and-under singles division after defeating Carl Dela Cruz, 6-3,

See MILLER on Page 26

Christian Miller, left, prepares to serve against defending champion Rafael Jones, who is seen here reacting after missing a shot, during their 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships title game last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.
MARK RABAGO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan participants to the 2011 Guam Swimming Championships pose for a group photo at the Hagatna Swimming Pool after the competition last year.

9 Tsunami Saipan tankers off to Guam

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will be sending nine of its swimmers to compete in this weekend's 2012 Guam Swimming Championships at the Hagatna Swimming Pool.

Head coach Hiro Kimura said the team will be led by his own son, 16-year-old Kensuke Kimura.

The Grace Christian Academy student will be competing in the 400m individual medley, 200m IM, 200m backstroke, and 50m freestyle.

Joining the younger Kimura in Guam are Takumi Sugie, Kaito and Ryuto Yanai, Heon-

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

Barracudas/Mantas win GCDC U17 tournament

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Team Barracuda/Mantas defeated the Sharks/Dolphins, 28-16, to win the Garapan Community Development Center's 2012 U17 Girls Basketball League postseason tournament held last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The CNMI Women's Association co-sponsored the finale event, which was held to celebrate GCDC's 2012 1st Anniversary Bash family event.

The team was made up of Rachel Abrahms, Madeleine Alegre, Jeralyn Castillo, Pa-

See BARRACUDAS on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Barracudas/Mantas players pose for a group photo with their championship trophy after winning the GCDC's U17 Girls Basketball League postseason tournament last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

48-lb Trevali is toast of 2012 Tinian Cliff Fishing Derby

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Fabi Muna and Norbert Pangelinan's 48-lb Trevali took home the $300 grand prize in Tinian's 13th Cliff Fishing Derby held from April 27 to April 29 from designated sections of Fleming Point I, II, and III to South Dump Coke on Tinian.

The duo also finished second place in the total weight category without their big whopper being included in the bundle.

See TREVALI on Page 26

Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Joseph Cruz and chair Steve Cabrera show off the jackpot catch of Fabi Muna & Nobert Pangelinan which they caught around the waters of Fleming Point I on Tinian.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO